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Douglas Hogg arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg arrived Sunday at the start of a four-day Middle East swing. A British embassy spokesman quoted by the Associated Press said the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks would dominate the minister's conversations with Jordanian officials. "It is an important time in the peace process and Mr. Hogg wants to hear the Jordanian viewpoint regarding the peace process," said the spokesman, Mark Legoy. During his three-day visit, Mr. Hogg will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. He also will hold talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other officials. Mr. Hogg will visit Israel and meet with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories before returning to London later in the week. "One of the things we will be talking about will be the peace process, to see what progress has been made," Mr. Hogg told reporters as he left London's Heathrow airport for Amman. He said he will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Yemen begins locust spraying

SANAA (AP) — Foreign aid agencies and officials from Yemen's Ministry of Agriculture have begun aerial spraying of areas of eastern Yemen worst hit by locusts. The swarms must be sprayed just before sunset, when they have settled for the night, or within two hours after dawn, before they move on. "I think there'll be a substantial number that can't be caught because they keep moving," said Keith Cressman, locust reporting and forecasting officer from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters in Rome. Helicopters used in the spraying were provided by the German aid agency Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit and the British Overseas Development Agency.

1 killed in Sindh blasts

KARACHI (AFP) — A series of bomb blasts and grenade attacks rocked southern Pakistan's Sindh province Sunday, killing a civilian, injuring nine others and damaging several army camps, police and army sources said. At least four bombs went off in the countryside including one in Shikarpur, killing a villager, police said. Eight others were injured. Another low intensity device exploded in Ubaro in northern Sukkur city, but no casualties were reported, they said. Two more bombs rocked Kotri, some 125 kilometres north of here late Saturday, police said.

Iran denies link to U.S. bombing

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharazi, has rejected an Egyptian charge that Tehran gave the go-ahead for the World Trade Centre bombing in New York. An Egyptian official told New York Times newspaper that Mahmoud Abu Halima, among six people indicted for the bombing, confessed Iranian intelligence agents had approved the attack at a meeting in Peshawar, Pakistan. Mr. Kharazi, quoted in Tehran newspapers Sunday, denied any Iranian links with "terrorist" groups and said the confession was invalid because it had been extracted under duress. "This is not the first time Cairo is accusing another country for its problems, and Egypt will not be able to rein in the spontaneous uprising of its people" by blaming Iran, he said.

Iran holds 3 on spying charges

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has arrested two Indians and an Iraqi in the southern province of Kerman on charges of espionage, a Kerman newspaper reported Sunday. A Kerman intelligence chief told the paper that the three foreigners were arrested in February and March. He gave no names but said they tried to infiltrate official organisations.

Russian pretenders agree to DNA tests

LONDON (R) — A man who claims to be the great-grandson of murdered Russian Tsar Nicholas II has agreed to undergo DNA tests to prove his ancestry, his spokesman said on Sunday. Spanish resident Prince Alexis, 45, says his mother Princess Olga-Beata is the daughter of one of the tsar's five children, has been approached by a group of Russian scientists and historians trying to determine the fate of the Romanov family. "Prince Alexis and Princess Olga-Beata know the tests will prove positive otherwise they would not subject themselves to the embarrassment and indignity of being proved wrong," spokesman Frank Peters said.

3 tonnes of morphine seized in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Security forces seized three tonnes of morphine in the Naqura desert region of central Iran last week, an official said Sunday. The Iranian news agency IRNA also quoted Brigadier Mohammad Tazeh, commander of law enforcement forces in Esfahan, as saying a total of 40 tonnes of various types of drugs was seized during the last Iranian year which ended in March.

PLO is studying confederation idea

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will study a proposal for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a way to end the impasse in the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, a PLO official said Sunday. But PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said there has been no discussion with Jordan on details of such a union. His remarks came after Israeli officials and Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories said last week they may raise the idea of a confederation when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits the region Aug. 1-5.

As discussed in Israel, the confederation also would include the Jewish state. The idea was put forward by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as a way of breaking the impasse in the peace talks, which began in October 1991. A confederation agreement could preclude the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem, as all sides would have access to the city. The future of Jerusalem has been a major sticking point in the talks.

Haidar Abdul Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, told Israel Television on Friday he thought the idea should be discussed with Mr. Christopher.

"I think I am inclined to agree with Mr. Peres," he said Friday. "It is more realistic to negotiate the final status before, because the discussion for the interim period is ridden with difficulties." Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters Sunday: "We will very quietly study the issue when it will be raised."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, who also is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, denied reports that Jordanians and Palestinians already were working out details of a confederation.

He said that meetings in Amman last week were aimed at discussing negotiating strategy. "We are discussing how to develop our coordination in the negotiations and also issues pertaining to the interim self-rule period," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Arab negotiators to meet in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Arab parties to peace talks with Israel will meet in Beirut after a Middle East visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in early August, Egypt's foreign minister said Sunday. Amr Mosa said Palestinian negotiators and the foreign ministers of the frontline states with Israel — Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan — would attend the meeting ahead of a new round of the talks. Mr. Mosa was speaking to reporters after talks in Beirut with his Lebanese counterpart Faris Bouze on the peace talks, trade and relations. He said he would deliver a message to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Israel has proposed limited autonomy for the Palestinians under which they would control activities such as education and medical care until a final agreement can be reached on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is committed to two stages of negotiations, first for the interim period and then for the permanent arrangement. But Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Television that discussing a confederative agreement did not necessarily contradict negotiations for an interim agreement.

"Jordan is committed to the idea of confederation, the Palestinians are committed to the idea of confederation, (the governing) Labour Party has said it is willing to go the way of confederation," Mr. Beilin said Friday. "If there really is a common camp, regarding the character of the permanent solution, not in details, but in principle it could be a very important factor in advancing the negotiations," he said.

The Palestinian-Israeli talks have faltered principally over the issue of Jerusalem. "I say here and now, there is no peace without Jerusalem," Dr. Abdul Shafi told a group of Jerusalem Muslim clerics Friday. "The Americans and the Israelis must understand this." Meanwhile, it was revealed Saturday that members of the current Israeli government were meeting with PLO officials in 1987, six years before a law banning such meetings was lifted.

Lawmaker Dedi Zucker of the Meretz party met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1987, army radio reported. A public meeting in 1990 between Mr. Arafat and senior members of Meretz, then in opposition, was squelched when the PLO was not more forthcoming on concessions to Israel, the radio said. The ban on meetings with the PLO was lifted in January this year. At least 20 legislators have met with the PLO, and a majority of coalition legislators favour direct talks with the organisation, which is frozen out of direct participation in the peace talks. In Damascus, a hardline Palestinian group Sunday rejected the proposals for Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

The move was aimed at covering up the failure of 20 months of Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) asserted. The PFLP is leading an alliance opposed to the talks. Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has said a confederation could not come about until after peace was reached with Israel. The PFLP said any decision on a confederation should be made by two independent and sovereign states. "Presenting this idea now is aimed at covering the failure of the 10 previous sessions of negotiations," it said.

(Continued on page 3)

Hrawi vows resistance attacks will continue; Israel issues warning

Combined Agency Dispatches

MASHGHARA, Lebanon — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi vowed Sunday guerrilla attacks on Israeli forces in occupied South Lebanon would continue until they withdrew. And Israel issued a stern warning that it would retaliate.

Mr. Hrawi was speaking during his first visit as head of state to villages facing Israel's "security zone" in the south and shortly before Israel issued its warning.

"We will continue to resist this occupation until implementation of (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 425," Mr. Hrawi said in Mashghara, a pro-Iran Hizbollah (Party of God) stronghold eight kilometres north of the "security zone." Resolution 425, adopted after a 1978 Israeli incursion, called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

"After the Israeli occupation ends, they can demand from us the security of their borders when the Lebanese army takes control of the south," Mr. Hrawi said in the shell-blasted village.

Witnesses said while the president toured villages facing the zone in the southeast, two Israeli planes broke the sound barrier — part of stepped up Israeli air activity since the killing of five Israeli soldiers in attacks on July 8 and 9.

Lebanese anti-aircraft batteries fired on Israeli planes staging mock air raids on the Iqlim Al Toufah mountain ridge, a Hizbollah stronghold north of the "security zone."

They also flew over Beirut, witnesses said. Palestinian and Hizbollah guerrillas have been on high alert for

Israel retaliatory air strikes or a ground offensive. The Israeli warning was issued by the Jewish State's cabinet. It said Israeli forces had been built up along the Lebanon border and vowed to "act against those who attack" Israeli forces.

The statement was read by cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein after ministers debated the recent escalation of guerrilla attacks which 12 Israeli soldiers have died in Lebanon this year.

During a break in the weekly cabinet meeting, Mr. Rubinstein announced that the Israeli army "is prepared with reinforced troops to defend the northern settlements and northern residents."

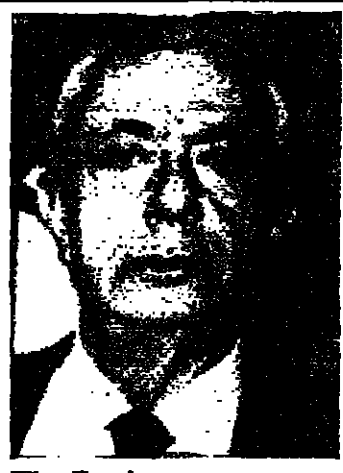
Israel's army, added Mr. Rubinstein, "will act against those who attack its forces in the security zone and this is in addition to the operations of the South Lebanon Army."

The statement did not mention Syria by name. But Israel has repeatedly accused Syria of facilitating the attacks by permitting guerrillas to act against Israel from Syrian-controlled areas in Lebanon.

The announcement also followed a statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharara who was quoted as telling reporters in Beirut Saturday that any threats against Lebanon would be taken as a threat against Syria.

Asked about the cabinet announcement, Police Minister Moshe Shahal indicated on Israel Radio that the warning was aimed at Syria.

"He who must understand what it means, will, I hope, com-



Elias Hrawi

prehend it well. And I hope that the content of the announcement will be understood," he said.

Health Minister Haim Ramon said of Shara's statement: "Katyushas (rockets) are not falling on the residents of Syria. The government reserves for itself freedom of action to defend the residents of the north, and we will do what is necessary."

The American peace team coordinator, Dennis Ross, served as a conduit for an exchange between Israel and Syria last week over the situation in South Lebanon.

But tensions have risen since Mr. Ross' departure. On Saturday, two Israeli soldiers were wounded and three guerrillas died in fighting near Bint Jbeil in the "security zone."

Lebanese security officials have reported Israeli bulldozers in southern Lebanon for the past week. On July 12 they said Israel had moved 17 Howitzers across the border.

The attacks from Lebanon have included rocket barrages on northern settlements, and Israeli residents have been pressuring the government to take action. While the rockets have caused few casualties and limited damage, they have forced thousands of Israelis to spend nights in shelters or windowless security rooms.



'FIXING THE WOUNDS': U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober helps a Vietnamese war veteran, Hanoi, to put on a leg prosthesis during a visit Sunday to a vocational training centre for handicapped in Ho Chi Minh City. Mr. Ly lost his legs when he marched over a mine. Mr. Gober and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord lead a presidential mission in Hanoi since Thursday for talks (AFP photo)

Ekeus resumes talks in Iraq; prospects uncertain

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus began a new round of talks with Iraqi officials Sunday evening to avert a clash on missile monitoring, saying only that the outcome depends on how the discussions go.

"We will continue our talks," he told reporters as he left for the meeting.

Asked if he would have further discussions on Monday, Mr. Ekeus replied: "It depends on the developments in today's talks."

Earlier Sunday, Mr. Ekeus, who heads the United Nations Special Commission to disarm Iraq (UNSCOM), met for an hour with Iraqi officials to avert a confrontation on long-term missile monitoring as Baghdad insisted on an end to the three-year-old trade embargo.

This is Mr. Ekeus' fifth meeting with the government since arriving in Baghdad on Thursday on a last-ditch mission to head off confrontation.

Despite threats of possible U.S. military action, Iraq has so far refused to allow the United Nations to set up long-term surveillance cameras at two missile sites south of Baghdad or to allow them to be sealed.

Baghdad has argued that an

accord on long-term monitoring of its arms programmes should follow the lifting of the U.N. embargo imposed days after its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Sources close to the talks said Baghdad appeared to be working on proposals to defuse the crisis which has threatened Iraq with a military strike.

"That would not be unrealistic," one source told Reuters when asked if a deal was in the works.

Mr. Ekeus, who had originally planned to leave Baghdad on Sunday, has said he would stay as

long as his presence was still productive.

Mr. Ekeus has made clear he has not come to negotiate U.N. resolutions.

But U.N. sources have said Baghdad could find a way out of the crisis by offering proposals which complied with the U.N. resolutions.

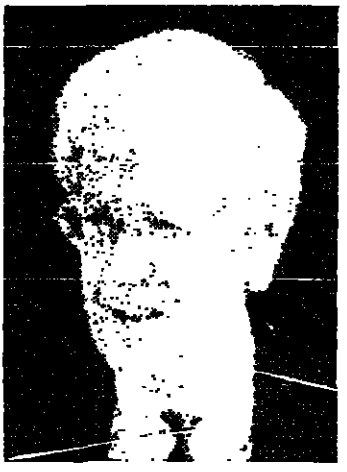
"We have to be sure that these sites are not being used and if we're not sure then we have to be able to monitor them. Any proposals that meet that criteria will be considered," one source told Reuters.

"The talks are not concluded, so we have to continue the work," Mr. Ekeus told reporters after Sunday's morning meeting. Mr. Ekeus met with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and the country's main international negotiator, and Foreign Ministry officials.

Mr. Ekeus said they were joined by Riyadh Al Qaisi, Foreign Ministry under-secretary and head of the Iraqi delegation conducting talks with the United Nations in New York on a one-time sale of oil.

Diplomats in New York said last week that Iraq was close to agreement on a deal to sell \$1.6 billion in oil to finance the purchase of food and medicine as well

(Continued on page 3)



Rolf Ekeus

Ishaq Khan, Sharif resign; polls set

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resigned and dissolved parliament Sunday, bowing to pressure from the military and opposition legislators led by his predecessor Benazir Bhutto.

His political nemesis, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, also submitted his resignation in keeping with his side of an army-brokered agreement.

Mr. Sharif announced his resignation in a nationally televised speech. Mr. Ishaq Khan made his in a letter to the speaker of the National Assembly that was also distributed to local newspapers.

The state-run Associated Press of Pakistan said elections for the lawmaking lower house of parliament would be held Oct. 6. The legislatures of the four provinces also were dissolved, and elections set for Oct. 9.

Before resigning, Mr. Ishaq Khan swore in an interim prime minister, Moeen Qureshi, a former World Bank executive. Mr. Ishaq Khan then turned over the presidency to Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, as provided by the constitution.

Mr. Sharif's term would have expired in 1995; Mr. Ishaq Khan's in November.

The resignations were seen as a concession to the army, which has become increasingly troubled by the political feuds that have paralysed Pakistan's leadership for nearly five months. They were brokered by army Chief-of-Staff Abdul Waheed.

"I have decided to quit," Mr. Sharif said in a televised address to the nation.

Mr. Sharif also announced new elections, but did not set a date.

"I do not want to remain an inactive prime minister," Mr. Sharif said.

He said he had hoped the supreme court's verdict restoring his government after President Ishaq Khan dissolved it three months ago would be respected.

But what happened later "is a bitter story," he said, adding his opponents were "after his government which was friendly to the down-trodden."

"My heart is full of secrets. If I reveal all a multitude of people will take to the streets in expression of anger," Mr. Sharif said in a hard-hitting speech.

In his address, Mr. Sharif accused opposition leader Benazir Bhutto of destabilising his government and threatening the country's fragile democracy.

"In this country the same people who claim to be champions of democracy are the same people who are threatening it," he said.

Mr. Sharif had earlier offered midterm elections, but only if the president, who sacked his government last April, resigned first.

Mr. Sharif's term would otherwise end in 1995.

Earlier, Mr. Sharif's press secretary, Sadiq Farooq said it was agreed that elections would be held in 60 days.

LDP fails to win majority in Japan

Combined agency dispatches

TOKYO — Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost its parliamentary majority in Sunday's election, winning 223 seats in the 511-seat lower house, final returns quoted by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) showed.

But the ruling conservative party, in power for 38 years, managed to achieve its pre-election goal of winning at least 220 seats, putting it in a position to form a coalition with a single opposition party.

As of 00:47 a.m. Monday (1547 GMT Sunday), NHK showed non-conservative opposition parties and independents certain of gaining at least 273 seats.

The main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) was assured of winning 70 seats, a record low, while Shinseit, the Japan Renewal Party set up by former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata last month, was assured of 55 seats.

The Buddhist-backed Komeito was certain of 51 seats, while the Japan New Party, formed last year by another disaffected LDP member, was assured of 35.

The centrist Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) was certain to win 15 seats followed by 13 for the Sakigake, or Pioneer Party — another LDP splinter group formed last month. The centrist Shaminren (United Social Democratic Party) was certain of four seats.

Independent candidates, of whom at least half are expected to support the LDP, were assured of 30 seats, NHK said.

The Japan Communist Party, with which none of the leading parties wants to form a coalition, was assured of winning 15 seats. That leaves the country's political compass spinning.

The LDP may be able to form a coalition government with other parties and even retain the prime minister post. The opposition parties and independents also could form their own coalition, but that appeared unlikely given their ideological differences.

Whoever takes power, Japan is likely to have its weakest government in decades. Any new leader would have a difficult time changing policies and practices set by powerful bureaucrats.

"This was a difficult election, and that difficulty is reflected in the results," said a grim Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the LDP president.

Reform was a buzzword in most of the campaigns. All parties promised to toughen campaign-finance laws and change the electoral system to reduce the cost of campaigns.

The LDP, in particular, has been the focus of several scandals in which huge amounts of money were channelled to politicians.

"I feel a beginning of a new era that is a break from the past," said Satsuki Eda, head of Shaminren.

The absence of strong politicians to control the competing interests of the major ministries also could hinder trade negotiations with the United States and other nations.

The ruling party has sometimes failed in the past to win an

Majali briefs American student delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday briefed a group of professors and students from American universities on the Middle East peace process and explained Jordan's position towards the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Dr. Majali reviewed at the meeting the situation in Jordan and the Middle East and dwelt on regional developments which took place since the end of the cold war era and the Gulf crisis and their consequences on Jordan and other Arab countries.

Noting that the Middle East is one of the main sources of energy in the world, Dr. Majali said the region should enjoy stability which is based on justice and peace.

"Since the Palestinian problem is the essence of the conflict, everyone should contribute to finding a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of it to achieve this aspired-for peace," he said. Efforts exerted since the start of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in 1991 have made the world follow up with concern the Palestinian cause, he said.

The objective of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, he said, is the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace.

In addition to the issues Jordan is discussing with Israel, whether on regaining Jordanian territories occupied by Israel, regaining the Kingdom's water rights, or solving the problem of refugees, the Kingdom insists on a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem, particularly with regards to the Palestinian question, Dr. Majali said.

The Kingdom, he said, fully supports the Palestinians' quest to regaining all of their legitimate rights.

The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples will decide on the type of their relationship, taking into consideration the idiosyncrasy of these relations, after a peace settlement has been reached, he

(Continued on page 10)

NEWS IN BRIEF

campaign around the country while his lawyers contest the constitutionality of October's one-man referendum. He will urge a boycott of the referendum if it goes ahead.

His rhetoric targets middle-aged, middle-class civil servants who for decades were the backbone of Egypt's political class but now feel abysmally paid and increasingly threatened by the transfer of power to the private sector.

"I have to say I'm regardless of everything. The individual at the level of a middle manager or an undersecretary in the civil service, with two or three children, cannot live a normal life. He and his family are crushed," Mr. Ahmad said.

He handed a reporter a cup of tea he made himself and vowed: "I've been in politics for 30 years and I'll be here for another 30 years. One day I'm going to be president of this country."

TEHRAN (Agencies) — The opposition Iranian Liberation Movement (ILM) has warned of "growing popular discontent" here and called on President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to ensure "respect for civil liberties." *

In a statement issued Saturday, the ILM, which is headed by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, said it was "disturbed" by the political situation in Iran.

The ILM said Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected for a second term in June, had to confront "an economic crisis, widespread corruption in the administration, growing popular discontent and unprecedented stagnation in the industrial sector."

NICOSIA (R)—U.N. envoy Jo Clark ended his first visit to Cyprus Sunday saying he was cautiously optimistic a U.N. package to build confidence between rival Greek and Turkish Cypriots would be accepted.

"I believe there will be an acceptance. What exact numbers what exact date I can't predict," he told Greek and Turkish Cypriot reporters at a news conference in the U.N.-controlled Nicosia buffer zone.

"If you are asking what my conclusion is, it is optimistic, is pessimistic, it is cautiously optimistic," he added.

The former Canadian prime minister said implementation of the package would benefit both communities and work as a catalyst for an overall settlement.

"(The package) will bring benefits to each side and to both. It is implemented it will represent the most important step forward in Cyprus in almost 20 years," he said.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops seized its northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The U.N. is trying to reunite the island as a federation. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that although he was close to getting approval for measures that would start an economic and political rapprochement between the two communities.

They included placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha, where Greek-Cypriots



once lived, and reopening Nicosia airport under U.N. control.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, who represents Greek Cypriots, has accepted the measures in principle.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash asked for time to promote acceptance of the package.

But U.N.-sponsored talks between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash, due to resume in June, were postponed. Mr. Denktash has since quit as negotiator.

As Mr. Clark spoke 400 Greek Cypriot refugees from the village of Phylia staged a protest west of Nicosia. About 100 broke through police cordons and entered the buffer zone but were stopped by U.N. peacekeepers.

Mr. Clark and his deputy Guy Taylor Feissel were to leave Cyprus for Athens later Sunday. They will visit Ankara later this week.

been confirmed by several government and congressional officials.

Last year she did get into the embassy but was turned away after a brief hearing in the visa office. Awa threatened to refuse to testify in Greece unless the visa was arranged. The government pressed him to change his mind, promising — again — that it would help with the visa.

About 10 days ago, the sister's visa request was turned down again. This time, she did go through the process at the embassy only to be told at the end that she did not have sufficient financial collateral in Syria to ensure that she would return there and not remain in the United States.

"Six years and they can't get a visitor visa for my sister?" Awa asked with disbelief.

The government did get one of her brothers into the country — but he was arrested in Iraq and almost held because Awa had suggested the CIA information during the G-2 trial.

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi opposition source says the Iraqi army has wiped out a small village in the southern marches, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency in a Saturday night dispatch said that just 24 families survived the attack on Hashbaria by Iraqi infantry and artillery units. The date of the alleged attack and the number of victims were not given. The village was said to be near the southern Iraqi town of Al Azmarah, which is 150 kilometres northwest of Basra. It was destroyed, the Iraqi opposition source was quoted as saying. The Iranian news agency compared the incident to the March 18, 1988, attack on the Kurdish village of Halabja in northern Iraq in which hundreds were killed, many by toxic chemicals. There was no suggestion in the report on Hashbaria that chemicals were involved. There was no way to independently confirm the report, as Iraq seldom takes reporters, or observers to the area and few risk crossing the border from Iran. Thousands of Shiite Muslims have taken refuge in the marches since a failed rebellion against the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein following the 1991 Gulf war. The Western allies have set up a "no-fly" zone over the area to protect the sheltering rebels. But the policy has often been unable to monitor ground action and sheltering families have often been observations public. IRNA said the 24 surviving families had taken refuge in southern Iran, where hundreds of other Shiite Muslims also have fled.

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's Arabic-language newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej was ordered closed for three days for publishing a graphic depicting a series of tiny islands disputed by Bahrain and Qatar, it was reported Saturday. The ban commences Sunday, Information Ministry officials said. Editors of the paper refused to comment on the closure order. The graphic ran with a story on harnessing a vast wealth of natural gas in the Gulf region. The graphic shows the peninsula of Qatar, with the disputed Howar islands abutting its coast and gas fields marked on scattered locations of the hinterland. Akhbar Al Khaleej was accused of playing up Qatar's contention that Howar is an integral part of its territory. Bahrain argues that the islands belong to it by virtue of demarcations dating back to the first half of this century.

ANKARA (AFP) — One person was killed and at least two were injured in three grenade attacks Saturday night on hotels at Antalya, a tourist resort on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, according to reports here said. The first explosion was at 21:20 (18:20 GMT) and was followed by two others either inside or just outside three hotels on the outskirts of the town, the reports said. The semi-official Anatolia news agency said one person was killed and two were injured by a hand grenade thrown in front of the Mithat Hotel. Turkish journalists contacted in Antalya spoke of eight more casualties in the other two blasts which occurred inside hotels. All the casualties were believed to be Turkish nationals, according to officials quoted in the reports. The triple grenade attack came three weeks after an attack in central Antalya which injured 23 people including 15 mainly German and Scandinavian tourists. The authorities blamed Kurdish separatists for that attack on June 27.

TEL AVIV (AP) — A survival hike by two brothers ended tragically Sunday when the body of one was found dead from a fall, four days after the other was found dead the same way. Nahshon Leibowitz, 18, was found in a dry river bed in the desert, Israel Television reported. Preliminary investigations showed he died from a fall, the report said. His brother, Ofir, 21, was found dead just over a kilometre away on Tuesday, from a cliff fall. They were the only children of Yisrael and Ziporah Leibowitz of Haifa. The two had set off two weeks ago on the desert hike so Ofir could teach Nahshon mapping techniques on the older brother was about to complete his army service in the paratroops, and the hike was designed to help Nahshon, just shy of his recruitment, qualify for the elite volunteer corps. The evidence showed that Nahshon fell ill and Ofir set off to get help, only to fall from the cliff, the television said. When Nahshon understood his brother was not returning, he tried to move on, but also fell to his death, it said.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel extradited an American wanted in connection with a murder case to the United States Sunday, after a lengthy battle against the order that included a staged suicide attempt. Robert Manning, 41, is suspected of involvement in attending a booby-trapped appliance to a Manhattan beach, California computer firm in 1980. It blew up and killed a secretary, Patricia Wilkins. Manning immigrated to Israel about a decade ago and lived in the Kiryat Arba settlement in the occupied West Bank. The United States asked his extradition in 1991, and Mr. Manning subsequently lost four appeals to the Israeli Supreme Court. Accompanied by two American officers, and a police medic, Mr. Manning had one hand cuffed while taken on board a TWA jet at Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv on Sunday morning. In the other hand, he carried a Jewish prayer book. He also wore a Jewish prayer shawl or tallit. "I'll be back. This is all nonsense. I didn't do a thing. It's shameful to our country," Mr. Manning told reporters in Hebron as he walked up stairs to the plane. He was brought to the airport from nearby Ramle Prison, and the jet took off shortly before 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT). Mr. Manning was to have been flown to California last Tuesday, but he avoided the flight at the last minute when medics found he was ill and the airliner refused to take him.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel, seeking to boost exports of arms to Taiwan, will present its latest military technology at an exhibition in Taipei in August, a newspaper reported Sunday. Pilotless spy aircraft, shipborne missile systems, a satellite communications network and night vision technology will be on display, officials from the Israel Military Industries told the Haaretz newspaper. Taiwan produces under licence Israeli Dvora naval patrol craft and Gabriel surface-to-surface missiles, the daily said. China opened diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1992 and military sources said the Jewish state faces the dilemma of trying to halt a slump in arms sales while not upsetting Peking.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Megalopolis
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
20:00	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Golden Girls
21:10	Thirty Something
22:00	News in English
22:30	Street Justice

PRAYER TIMES

04:06	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:25	'Asr
19:46	Maghreb
21:17	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swireli, Tel. 810740
 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637492
 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
 Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
 (Armenian) Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
 St. Anne International Church Tel. 652526.
 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824538.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623658-64049.
 Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and west calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	19 / 32
Aqaba	24 / 40
Dead Sea	17 / 35
Jordan Valley	23 / 38

Poof Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Civil Defence Emergency	630041
Civil Defence Enquiry	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	691228
Police and District	630000
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	696390
Police Training Department	630000
Hotel Commission	661870
Prior Complaints	630000
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	891467
Human Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	0121
Crimes Call	662300
Central Asian Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repair	661101
Joan Telephone	772111
Radiation	661101
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric	
Company	636381
Rt General Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381133
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	64428106
Al-Rethi Maternity, J. Amn.	62424102
Jabal Amman Maternity	64236262
Malhus, J. Amman	6361140
Palestine, Shamsianni	66417104
Al-Rethi Maternity, J. Amn.	66913100
University Hospital	8458945
Al-Musaher Hospital	66572219
The Islamic, Abdali	66612757
Al-Rethi Maternity, J. Amn.	6641610
Italian, Al-Muhajreh	77710133
Al-Bastir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Army, Marka	89161135
Al-Rethi Maternity, J. Amn.	80234050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)905060
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)966732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)996999
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)375555
Al-Rashed Hospital	8227275
Al-Nafes Hospital	8244710
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)31411

**QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department, Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (06)5320045, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

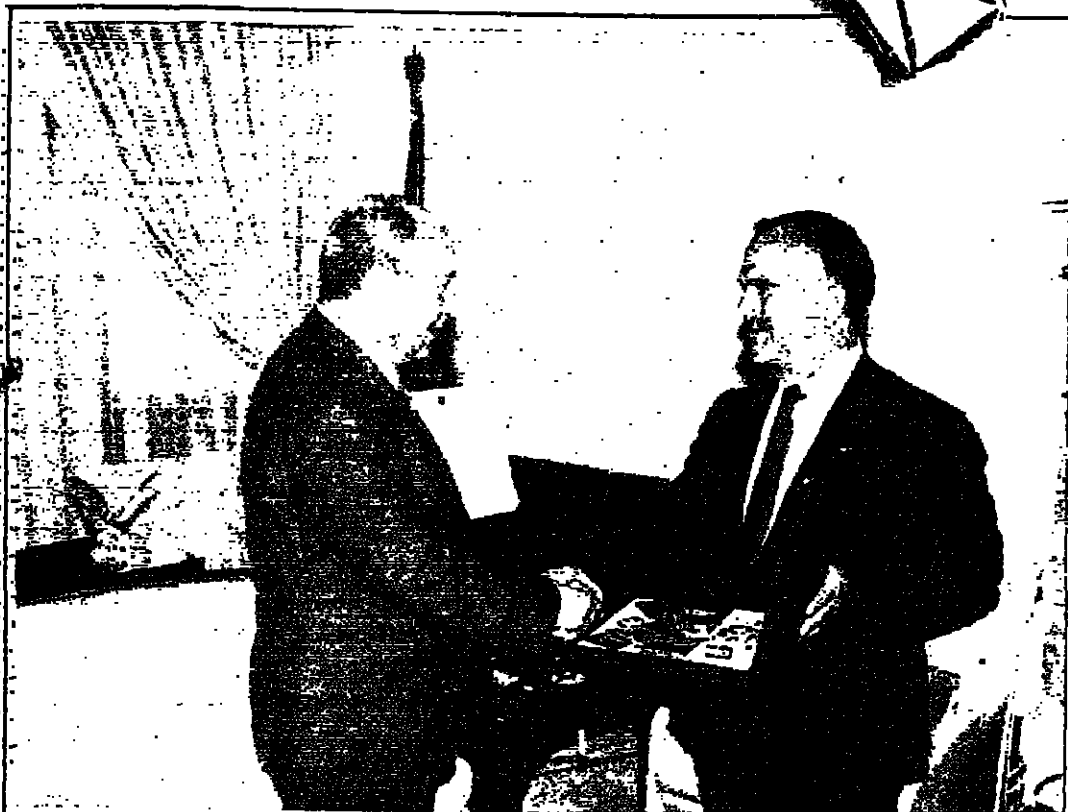
**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)**

06:15	Sana'a (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:00	Jeddah (RJ)
10:15	Riyadh (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Amman (RJ)
10:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	New Delhi (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
19:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:50	Bangkok (RJ)
20:00	Casablanca (RJ)
06:45	Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30	Aden (AL)
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22:45	Vienna, Larnaca (OL)	
01:45	Dubai (KS)	
DEPARTURES		
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		
(Terminal 1)		
07:00	Beirut (RJ)	
12:30	American, Chicago (RJ)	
13:15	Amsterdam, London (RJ)	
13:25	Frankfurt (RJ)	
14:30	Cairo (RJ)	
21:00	Moscow (RJ)	
21:30	Dubai, Karachi (RJ)	
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
22:30	Damascus (RJ)	
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)		
09:15	Beirut (ME)	
12:15	Aden (AL)	
14:30	Khartoum (RJ)	
16:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)	
18:30	Istanbul (TK)	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg		
Apple	350/250	
Apricot	300/240	
Banana	680/1680	
Banana (Mukammarr)	620/1620	
Beetroot	320/1320	
Cabbage	100/150	
Carrot	280/220	
Cauliflower	180/160	
Cherry (red)	720/680	
Cucumber (large)	110/100	
Cucumbers (small)	170/120	
Eggplant	170/150	
Garlic	700/500	
Grapes	320/280	
Lemon	300/1480	
Marrow (large)	130/100	
Marrow (small)	250/200	
Mint	80	
Okra	670/550	
Onion (dry)	140/70	
Orange	340/200	
Peach	600/500	
Pepper (hot)	260/130	
Pepper (sweet)	200/120	
Tomato	130/150	
Turnip	130/60	
Sweetgreen	130/100	



FORMER MAYOR HONOURED: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at the Royal Court former Amman Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir, who resigned July 13. The Regent commended the efforts of Mr. Bashir while serving as mayor and decorated him with the Jordanian Al Kawakib Medal of the First Order. Mr. Bashir, who was succeeded by former Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi, announced he was resigning because he plans to run in the next legislative elections.



Arab Children's Congress Sunday concludes its 13th annual meeting in Amman at the University of Jordan (Petra photo).

Arab children's congress calls for region's nations to close ranks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 13th Arab Children's Congress ended in Amman Sunday with a call from the participating children on the Arab countries to close their ranks for the sake of confronting the present challenges and protecting the future of the Arab nation.

Concluding their week-long activities, organized by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the children, representing eight Arab states, emphasised the need for Arab unity which, they said, should draw on the common Arab heritage, history and values.

The congress, an annual event initiated by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1980, stressed the importance of interaction with past Arab history, retaining and strengthening cultural heritage, encouraging the Arab language and its literature and upholding Arab traditions as a way of regaining the strength of the Arab Nation.

The children also called on Arab countries to open up to other cultures and benefit from the experiences of the advanced nations.

They urged the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Palestine and end the "unjust" embargo being imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi children.

The children held their final session at the University of Jordan, where they met with Suleiman Arabiyat, the university's vice president for Administrative Affairs, who described the annual event as a model gathering for Arab unity.

NHF Deputy Director Abdullah Hindawi distributed meritorious certificates to the children, and the supervisors of children's groups from Iraq, Oman and Egypt presented Mr. Hindawi with token gifts in recognition of Queen Noor's efforts to bring Arab children together and promote the idea of closer Arab relations.

The children later called at the residence of the Bosnian families in Amman and presented gifts to their children.

The young congress participants, who came from Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Oman, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Jordan, sent a cable to the Queen expressing their deep appreciation of the hospitality accorded them in Jordan and the opportunity to see the country and discuss useful topics of concern to the Arab Nation.

By 1992 almost 750 children from 17 Arab states had participated in the annual event.

New voter registration at 20,000 and rising

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Around 20,000 new voters registered at the Ministry of Interior until Saturday this week with indications that the rate of new registrations will accelerate especially in major cities of the Kingdom, sources told the Jordan Times.

Sources, who asked they remain anonymous, said the registration period for new voters will continue until the end of July before the government takes a two-week period to review its voter files in the beginning of August.

Jordanians who were registered to vote in 1989 are not required to re-register during this time and the ministry will make appropriate announcements for those who misplaced or lost their 1989 voter cards when the time for card distribution begins.

When the Ministry of Interior completes the checking of its voter lists on Aug. 15, it is required by law to post the final lists for ten days during which citizens can check their names and contest the listings to a committee entrusted with reviewing discrepancies and errors.

The committee is then required to announce the results of its review within a week. These rulings can further be contested in court.

Interior Ministry sources told the Jordan Times that the highest turn-out for new voters has been mainly in cities like Amman, Zarqa and Irbid. They said that this rate has accelerated over the past few days after the government launched a media campaign to attract voters.

Last week Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali urged Jordanians "to exercise their constitutional rights and vote in the coming parliamentary elections."

His appeal, the premier had said, was warranted by the apparent low turnout of new voters. Dr. Majali said he was dissatisfied with the "turnout of people registering for the elections, to date."

This statement was made on July 13, but sources indicate now that there had been a shift in the attitude of citizens and many more are now arriving at specified centres of registration.



Ministry of Interior officials process new voter registrations (Petra photo).

In Amman, citizens can register at the following centres:

First district: Sharif Hussein Ben Nasser and al Rashid schools

Second district: Khawla Bint Al Azwar and Akka schools

Third district: Akka School

Fourth district: Sahab district governor's office, Al Qwaimeh Secondary School for Boys, Umm Qassar Secondary School for Boys, Asia School, Al Jizeh Secondary School.

People are required to register during the July registration period if they had just come of voting age (19 years old) or were living in other countries and were unable to register and vote in 1989.

Citizens who have changed residence from one voting district to another during the four years since 1989 are also required to register in their new district.

Changing districts

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Issa Al Omari Sunday called on citizens who applied to change their electoral constituencies to discuss the matter with committees in charge of revising and updating voters' lists.

He said citizens registered in the First, Second, Third and Seventh districts have to call at the Amman Governorate Building, those registered in Fourth district should call at the Sahab District Building, those in the Fifth at the Wadi Seer District Building and those in the Sixth at the Madaba District Building.

School, Al Muwaqar district governor's office and Abu Alanda School.

Fifth district: Sweileh Secondary School for Boys, Naour district governor's office, Wadi Al Seer district governor's office, Um Al Bassatin sub-district office, Marj Al Hamam Primary School.

Sixth district: Madaba governorate office, Theeban district office.

Jordan, Sudan agree to cooperate in health area

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Sunday signed an agreement for stepped-up cooperation in health-related fields.

The two sides agreed to exchange expertise and cooperate in training medical staff and exchanging visits by health officials to examine facilities in either country with special focus on primary health care, according to the agreement signed by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and Sudan's Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abdul Rahman Numeiri.

The two sides also agreed to report to each other any outbreaks of infectious disease in order to stem their spreading.

The agreement provides for close cooperation in combating diseases and exchanging expertise in manufacturing medical appliances and controlling drugs.

Under the agreement the health ministries in Jordan and Sudan will prepare an executive programme to implement the agreement to be renewed every two years.

Jordan has agreed to allow Sudanese nationals to enter the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman for treatment if they are found to be suffering from chronic diseases.

But the two sides said details on this special programme are still to be formulated.

Specialists analyse growth of Jordan's population

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour Khaled al Ghazawi Sunday said the rapid population growth in Jordan and the unusual and sudden increase in the number of job seekers have made it almost impossible for the government and the concerned authorities to reduce the rate of unemployment or deal with the problem of poverty.

The great influx of migrants into the Kingdom has boosted the normal population growth and has made it very difficult for the concerned authorities to expand social, educational and health services, added the minister in an address at the opening of a training workshop on analysing population growth in the Kingdom.

Organised by the National Population Commission (NPC) in cooperation with the European Community (EC), the workshop is expected to review working papers on population growth, fertility, mortality and migration rates and future trends among other topics.

Mr. Ghazawi told the participants that the population factor is a basic element of the comprehensive development concept since no genuine development can be achieved without the presence and the contribution of the human element.

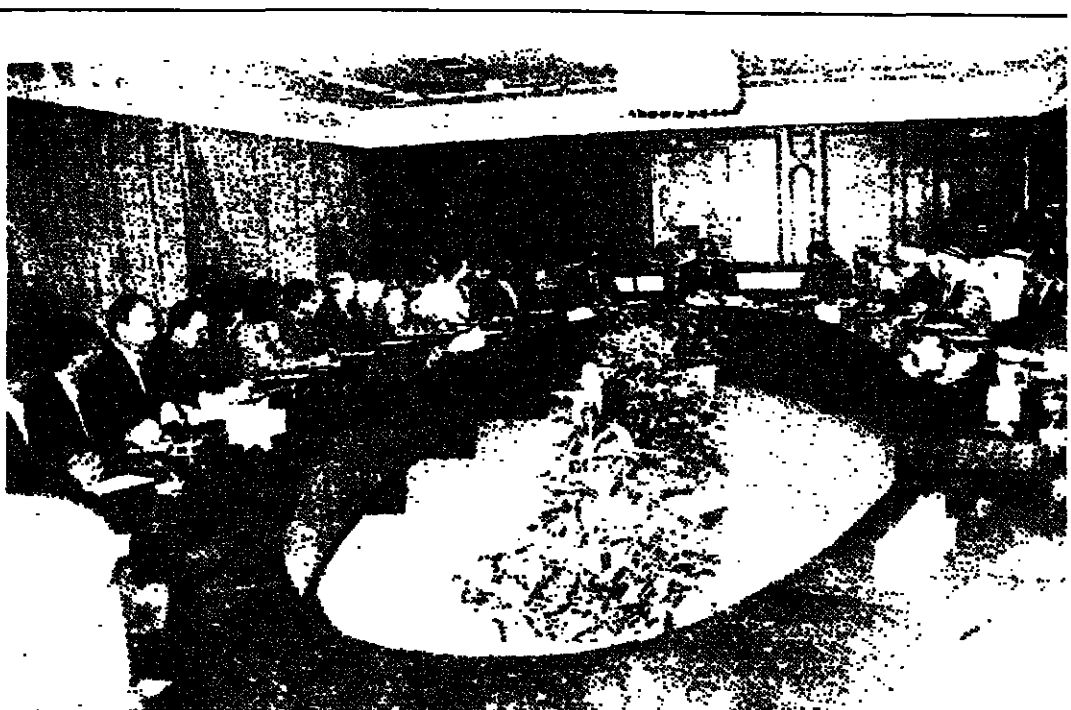
The NPC's Secretary General Nabih Salameh told a population conference here last April that Jordan witnesses a 3.4 per cent population growth annually.

Jordan's high population growth rate makes it imperative that decision-makers study the demographic, social and economic changes before planning for further socio-economic development, said the minister.

Such growth rates constitute the cornerstone in the construction of societies because the numerical increases in population mean further demands on services, Mr. Ghazawi added.

He thanked the EC for financing the workshop and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma for her continued backing of the National Population Commission's endeavours.

Mr. Salameh told the opening session that the commission plans to hold a series of activities in the coming months, including one about birth-spacing, to prepare for a national conference on population due to be held before the end of next year.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with representatives of voluntary societies in Jordan (Petra photo).

Majali urges linking voluntary work with public, private sector interests

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is aware that poverty is closely linked to unemployment and is sparing no effort in cooperation with the private sector to find solutions to both problems, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Sunday.

To deal with unemployment, the private and the public sectors ought to link up and exploit every opportunity to create jobs and promote production, said Dr. Majali at a meeting with representatives of voluntary organisations held at his office.

The government has faith in voluntary work which has the attention and support of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people, said the prime minister at the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour.

It believes that voluntary societies' work should be promoted and measures should be taken to coordinate it with that of the concerned government ministries, he added.

Dr. Majali requested that voluntary societies hold periodic meetings to pool their resources with backing from the Ministry of Social Development which can coordinate their work and expand it.

He also suggested the publication of a monthly newsletter and preparing a guidebook that can help societies and donor organisations provide assistance to the needy.

The premier cited Al Amal Cancer Centre which attracted millions of dinars in donations from the Jordanian people as an example of the community's response to the calls for charity.

Dr. Majali accepted a proposal for holding an annual convention for all the charitable and voluntary organisations operating in Jordan.

Representatives of foreign non-governmental organisations operating in Jordan were also present at the meeting.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>EXHIBITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuhels City. ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Nidal Al Sawasi at the Royal Cultural Centre. ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Kameish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery. ★ Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery. ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental. ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al | <p>LECTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Lecture on recent excavations at the 'Ala Ghazal site north of Amman by Dr. Gary Rollefson at 7 p.m. at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR). <p>JERASH FESTIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Ballet performance by the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Troupe at the RCC at 8 p.m. ★ Concert by Lebanese singer Ragheb Alameh at 8:30 p.m. at the South Theatre of Jerash. ★ Arabic poetry recital at the Abdul Hameed Shoam Foundation at 5:30 p.m. |
|---|--|

Ekeus continues talks

(Continued from page 1)

as a special reparations fund. If approved, it will be Iraq's first major sale since the world embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait.

Asked if Mr. Qaisi's participation was a sign the talks were making progress, Mr. Ekeus replied: "I don't know."

The morning session, which lasted for about an hour, started 90 minutes late. There was no explanation for the delay.

No talks were held Saturday because of Iraq's observance of the 25th anniversary of the coup that brought the Baath Party to power.

The United Nations wants to ensure that Iraq does not violate the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolutions that call for elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and for setting up a long-term monitoring system.

Iraq says it is using the sites to test short-range missiles, which are allowed under the ceasefire pacts. And it says it wants concessions — such as an easing of the worldwide embargo — before it accepts long-term monitoring requirements.

The Security Council has warned Baghdad of "serious consequences" if it continues to defy U.N. resolutions.

U.S. President Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher have said they do not rule out the use of force.

In a nationally televised speech on Saturday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein referred only obliquely to the latest standoff with the United Nations, saying: "The tyrants and their lackeys... cannot harm Iraq or its programmes in life by fabricating excuses and accusations."

PLO studying confederation

(Continued from page 1)

Hundreds of Palestinian businessmen living outside the Israeli-occupied territories will meet in Arab East Jerusalem sometime in October to discuss investment opportunities there, organisers said Sunday.

The investment conference will be the first opportunity for Palestinians forced to flee their homeland because of the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars to meet in the occupied territories to decide how to help the Palestinian economy.

"The objective is to get Palestinian investors' assistance to build a strong Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip independent of the Israeli economy," said Palestinian peace delegate Mohammad Ishtayeh in Amman. "Our concern is to attract migrant Palestinian capital and settle it in the occupied territories."



AGREEMENT SIGNED: Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda Sunday sign an agreement whereby, through its cultural grant aid programme, Japan will donate audio-visual equipment worth JD 169,000 to the Public Library of Greater Amman Municipality. The equipment will include a micro-film system, video system and others to contribute to the promotion of social education in Jordan.

VACANCY

A leading Jordanian industrial company has a vacancy for:

AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Applicants should have the following qualifications:

1. Excellent command of English, business correspondence, typing in both Arabic and English and computer operations.

2. High caliber in office management, follow up and communication skills.

3. At least three years work experience.

A university degree in business administration or English is preferable.

An excellent salary will be paid and work is two shifts daily: Interested qualified candidates please send your C.V. and a recent photograph to:

P.O.Box 9289, Amman, Jordan

All applications shall be dealt with strict confidence.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جريدة الأردن اليومية عربية سياسية مستقلة منشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة للصحافة الأردنية

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Breaking the fall

DESPITE MISGIVINGS, many in the Third World, Jordan included, had welcomed the American-led initiative to deploy military force in Somalia late last year if only because the move meant that the starving millions in the lawless, chaotic Horn of Africa country had a chance to survive hunger and starvation.

Now, seven months after the U.S.-led United Nations force went in, what we see in Somalia is a near-return to square one; food is there, but little of it gets to the hungry since the bulk of the soldiers who are supposed to offer protection to food distribution are locked in a bloody conflict with the same people who are supposed to benefit from the international assistance.

Any consolation that the conflict is limited to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, is ill-founded. It is only a matter of time before vested interests in the rest of the country, long used to the law of the gun, would rise up and challenge the U.N. force.

We would hate to say "we told you so," but the reality on the ground in Mogadishu today only underlines the simple fact that while the hungry Somali people had received the U.N. forces as their benefactors, the well-fed Somali warlords and politicians saw the big powers grouped under the U.N. flag as instruments to further their political ambitions. But, as things turned out, their expectations were quashed since few external forces were takers to the offer of influence in the devastated country despite its strategic geographic location. And hence the bloodshed and the emerging Somali calls for the forces to go home.

Today, the international community finds itself in a conundrum. Can it continue to use military force to destroy the firepower of warlords with one hand while dispensing food with the other? What are the justifications of such an approach?

It may be easy to believe that the capture or death of one warlord or another might take the teeth out of militias left without leaders, but the key element that should be first taken into consideration is the deep-rooted tribal links that bind the Somali people into various factions. It means that eliminating or getting a warlord out of the way will not necessarily force his group into its knees.

The approach has to be definitely different, decisive and swift. We do not have any magic solutions to the situation, but would venture to suggest that the elders council which has been pondering over the means to found a new political system in Somalia could be a starting point. Let the Western and American military leaders take a step back (burying indeed what they would definitely see as demeaning given the fact that the Somalis are black) and allow the elders, who represent all mainstream Somali tribes and clans, decide by consensus where force has to be used and how much.

We do not know whether this is the right answer, but we do know that the present cat-and-mouse game being played out in Mogadishu means only one thing: As every day passes, the entire U.N. operation is slipping into an abyss.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday commented on a planned visit to the region, next month, by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher by saying that the Arab parties can only welcome the U.S. secretary and listen to his views, but, said the daily, Western officials have been coming and going for so long, trying, as they say, to better understand the situation and give impetus to the peace process and nothing has been achieved. All these visits and contacts between the Arabs and the Western nations did not help find a solution to the problem and did not make Israel comply with U.N. resolutions on the Middle East since 1967, the paper continued. Israel, backed by the United States, is still intransigent in its position and refuses to open the door for a genuine peace, based on the international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, the paper added. As long as the Americans and their friends have not grown tired of reiterating their statements and their pledges, the Arabs, for their part, have no alternative but to reiterate their just stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issue, added the paper. The Western envoys come and go to the region at a time when their governments carry out atrocities against the Somali people, allow the Muslims of Bosnia to be murdered and starve the Iraqi population, the paper said. We welcome a visit by the U.S. secretary to the region, we are careful not to try to antagonise him and the other envoys, but, the paper said, only when signs appear that the Western governments are truly oriented towards bringing about a just peace and forcing Israel to comply with the international legitimacy, can we believe in the statements about their declared intentions to help us reach a settlement.

AL DUS (JUR) tackled the situation in the Israeli held Arab lands now under Israeli siege. Israel's continued siege of the lands and its aim at driving the two million people there seem to be taken for granted by many parties and no one is raising any protest against this atrocity, said the daily. The area the worst affected by the starvation and the siege is the Gaza Strip where reports speak of horrible scenes, added the paper. In light of these facts we can only turn our attention to those Arabs interested in normalising their relations with the Israeli enemy, added the daily. The starving population and the awful conditions of the Palestinians in general should take precedence over all other considerations, demanded the daily.

Weekly Political Pulse

Unity — the sine qua non of a lasting solution to Palestine problem

The "Gaza first" approach, being orchestrated by Israel, could be prejudicial to the future of the negotiations on the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Given the fact that the burden of keeping Gaza Strip under Israeli rule is becoming unbearable from the Israeli point of view, accommodating the Rabin government on Gaza alone could in the final analysis diminish the Palestinian bargaining power regarding the fate of the rest of the occupied territories, including of course East Jerusalem. That is why the Arab side needs to establish a direct and organic link between a solution to the Gaza dimension of the Palestinian conflict and the rest of the aspects of the case before the proposition is taken seriously. It is also hardly possible for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to administer and rule a small strip of land populated by hundreds of thousands of impoverished Palestinians without the support from the West Bank where the economy is relatively robust and is still amenable to rapid development. Gaza Strip per se is not viable economically or politically and needs to be united in terms of its economy and other infrastructure to the rest of Palestine in order to be able to function and prosper sufficiently enough for the purpose of attaining a certain degree of stability.

The Palestinian side is not likely to reject a settlement over Gaza outright even under the worst conditions. The best course for the PLO is therefore to welcome an early resolution of the strip problem on condition that the future of the West Bank and East Jerusalem also be resolved within a specific time framework.

To be sure, hoisting the Palestinian flag over Gaza would boost the morale of the Palestinians and may end up boosting the chances of peace elsewhere as well. The Palestinian state of mind would be positively influenced in the event of even a partial settlement of the problem of the Palestinian territories now in their third decade under Israeli occupation.

On the other hand, the resolution of this limited dimension of the Palestinian territories may still trigger a simmering conflict between the Gazans and the rest of the Palestinians, should the fate of the West Bank and East Jerusalem remain hanging in the balance. A "Gaza first" approach may indeed prompt the Gazans to start thinking in terms of "Gazans first" vis-a-vis their brothers

and sisters in the West Bank as well as in the diaspora. After so many decades of separation, one cannot take for granted a commonality of interests between the Gazans and the other Palestinians. We have already encountered some occasions where the Gaza Strip chose to be represented by its own dignitaries rather than accept an overall Palestinian delegation to represent them. The last episode occurred when Palestinian delegations came to Amman to congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on the 40th anniversary of his accession to the throne. The Gazans, it will be recalled, preferred to speak for themselves rather than having one joint Palestinian delegation speak for all the Palestinians under occupation. That particular scene may lead to the conclusion that efforts need to be exerted to "reunite" Gaza with the West Bank if the envisaged Palestinian state is expected to see the light of day.

The moral of the story is that the "Gaza first" scheme is not so benign as it appears. While not recommending its rejection outright, it must be pursued with great care, vision and foresight. Otherwise, the Palestinian side would end up with more Palestinian division than they have bargained for. This is where the PLO needs to reassert itself as the only entity speaking for the Palestinians under occupation.

The Palestinians are prone to divisions that predate the Palestinian conflict and efforts need to be invested as of now to unify the Palestinian ranks in the occupied territories. The projected direct contacts between Israel and the PLO could advance Palestinian unity, something which is a sine qua non to any lasting resolution of the Palestinian case.

Israel has had a history of sowing discord between various Palestinian factions as a way to check the clout of the PLO in particular. This short-sighted Israeli policy has obviously backfired and there appears to be now a belated appreciation of the proposition that face to face dialogue with the PLO offers the most effective way for the resolution of the Palestinian situation. If this is really the case, then the "Gaza first" plan can be negotiated with the PLO directly rather than with any local party.

The need to look beyond today's Iraq

By Caryle Murphy

CAIRO — The U.S. missile strike at the Iraqi intelligence services, a visible symbol of Saddam Hussein's power base, highlights what many Iraqis and others regard as the ambivalent side of U.S. policy towards Iraq — a lack of clear goals for political change there and the methods to attain it.

Simply put, if and when Saddam Hussein moves from the newspapers to the history books, what then?

In Washington and the Arab World, there is little discussion about what new political system is possible, or likely, in this socially traumatised and economically shattered country. During the Gulf war, the United States appeared to have no clear goals beyond Kuwait's liberation. In the Clinton era, a similar fuzziness surrounds U.S. intentions regarding a post-Saddam Iraq. This has left the impression with some Arabs that the United States is interested in nothing but the humiliation of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqis often wonder aloud about long-range U.S. goals, usually putting it this way: "How come the U.N. resolutions talk only about weapons, and not democracy in Iraq?"

One broad scenario for a post-Saddam era in an authoritarian government led by a "Son of Saddam" who would bring Iraq back to international respectability, shun foreign adventures and permit just enough internal political change to show he is less ruthless and brutal than his predecessor.

The second scenario is more hopeful, and difficult: a full reordering of Iraqi politics based on democratic principles and human rights. This would be nothing short of revolutionary. This democratic scenario is also the least likely unless there is greater discussion and planning for the post-Saddam era by both Iraqis and the country best equipped to make it happen: the United States.

A truly democratic system would force Iraq to confront two immutable factors. It would, first, have to recognise Kurdish rights with full autonomy or, as the Kurds are demanding, a locally based federal system in a unitary Iraq. This would result in a greater political role for Iraq's Shiite Muslims, who make up 55 to 60 per cent of its population. And it would effectively end the 60-year monopoly on power by Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority.

As Graham Fuller, a Middle East specialist with the Rand Corp., wrote in a recent study of post-Saddam Iraq, "Any process of democratisation in Iraq will thus be initially destabilising to the traditional political and social order until a new, more democratic equilibrium is reached. This process cannot be deterred except at the cost of continuing dictatorship and suppression of human rights in all Iraqis."

Among the huge obstacles to the emergence of the democratic alternative in Iraq is the woeful experience of the Iraqi people themselves. After almost 40 years of dictatorship that eliminated normal civil society and smothered political discourse, they are likely to need a lengthy period of public debate, interaction and political experimentation in order, as one Iraqi uni-

versity professor put it, to "come to terms with themselves."

This intra-Iraqi political debate has already begun among exiled Iraqi political activists. But their continued disarray and squabbling point to what may occur on a larger scale if Iraqis at home ever get the chance for a real political debate on their future.

Iraqis themselves are divided over whether Saddam Hussein's demise would plunge the country into internal violence. But most agree that limiting the degree and duration of any such conflict would depend on two uncertain propositions: the willingness of regional powers like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey to refrain from helping their proxies with arms and money; and the emergence of an Iraqi strongman who is high on law-and-order but keen on a transition to a truly democratic system.

Iraq's weight in the Arab World and its strategic location mean that a democratic scenario would have tremendous repercussions. It could be the spark that forces nearby authoritarian regimes to confront rising sectarian aspirations, demands for greater political participation and questioning of borders.

The lack of enthusiasm by Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Iran for such concepts as democracy, federalism and human rights is another obstacle to a post-Saddam democratic alternative.

U.S. officials, though, seem disinclined to face such complexities. Instead, since the end of the Gulf war, they have repeated, mantra-like, what they hope to see after Saddam Hussein.

"We support the establishment of a democratic central government of national unity," Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian has said. "We want to see a government in Baghdad which respects the human rights of all its citizens, is at peace with its neighbours and accepts the U.N. resolutions."

The United States has also given highly visible endorsement to what is probably the best-organised exiled Iraqi political opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella that includes Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis. The INC's platform of democratic federalism is perhaps a good solution for Iraq's ethnically diverse population, but the group still have organisational problems. And its leadership has untested, some say dubious, support inside Iraq.

It will, however, take much more than these meager American initiatives for the goals outlined by Mr. Djerejian to become realities. It will require sophisticated groundwork and sustained effort. Encouragement of democracy in Iraq will also have to be done in a context of encouraging liberalisation throughout the region, since Iraq's prospects are limited if it is surrounded by a sea of anti-democratic countries.

If the U.S. commitment to a truly democratic Iraq is sincere, Washington has to be thinking about husbanding its resources, diplomacy, prestige and contacts in the region for a role there that will not be easy or evanescent. Among the questions it will need to face:

What role is the United States prepared to play in Iraq when

Saddam Hussein is gone? How will the United States ensure that Iraq's neighbours do not help to turn Iraq into a new Bosnia? How far will America go to reduce the financial burden of war reparations and reconstruction that a new government will face?

Will it be prepared to pressure Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, both struggling with huge debt problems, to accept shrunken oil quotas to make room for Iraq's petroleum in the global market? What will be the U.S. position on the Kurds' demands for a federalised state, and how will this affect relations with Turkey?

Is Washington ready to shed its unfounded fears that an extension of full political rights to the

Shiites, including the Islamic parties among them, will mean the expansion of Iranian influence over Iraq? Such fears underestimate what has been the core dynamic of Iraqi politics since Iraq's birth, a fervently held nationalism.

In his new book on Iraq, "Cruelty and Silence," the Iraqi writer Kanan Makiya writes: "Iraqis like to think of peace and security as a great white dove which will one day descend upon them. But will it? That is the fundamental question of Iraqi politics today."

It is a question the United States also needs to ask — and help answer — The Washington Post.

U.S.-Japan free trade agreement — probabilities, possibilities?

By Mohammad Abdalla Elqas

THE U.S.-Japan trade history has been marked by tension. Both countries desire more trade, since it is mutually beneficial, but not at the expense of a healthy economic relationship. A U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is being studied as a possible alternative mechanism to increase trade between the two countries while minimising trade disputes.

Interest in a U.S.-Japan FTA is gaining considerable momentum. It was given conception when the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, presented the FTA idea as a solution to the mounting bitterness and frustration caused by the present item-by-item approach to trade talks. Branches of the government both in the U.S. and Japan are conducting official studies of the pros and cons of a free trade agreement. Academics are increasingly conducting discussion and research on the topic. The business society is showing greater interest in making the Japan markets more "open". As the European Community (EC) settles more of the undecided issues, especially relating to foreign companies, and as the U.S.-Canada treaty takes effect, more attention and deeper examinations will be given to the idea of a U.S.-Japan FTA or "Ameripan".

It is conceivable that within the next decade, with all the studies and political pressures and the tantalising potential of economic gain, the U.S. and Japan will take steps towards making their markets more open through a mechanism of a free trade agreement.

U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement is possible, but not very probable nor practical from a business perspective. First, the push to remain in Europe after 1992 is the driving thought of the majority of the American international businessmen. In terms of volume of trade, EC is consider-

ably more important to the American business society than Japan alone. If the Japanese markets were made 100 per cent open to most businesses, it may mean only marginal increases in trade. Second, the U.S. business practices and culture are more similar to those of EC than to Japan. Thus, there is a natural attraction to doing business in Europe, coupled with a lack of initiative on the part of American companies to invest in Japan's "troublesome" markets. U.S. businesses would need a bigger "carrot" than just the Japanese market to begin channeling greater business in that direction. Third, the overly pessimistic attitude and distrust that Americans have towards Japan would be hard to overcome — an effective agreement perquisite. Japan is accused of circumventing past agreements and would find its way around those that would be reached in a free trade pact, while the U.S. market would be totally open to them. Finally, Japanese trade barriers are most often viewed as inherent in the society and political agreement has little power to remove them.

From a political standpoint, both nations are more in favour of a Pacific area agreement. This seems more probable than just U.S.-Japan FTA, especially since the EC is vowing not to let America be a "transshipment point for Japan". The politicians in Washington have proposed a "Pacific Coalition" to include the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Australia. A U.S.-Japan FTA would cause some estrangement between Japan and the other Pacific nations, a position with which Japan would feel very uncomfortable. A U.S.-Japan area agreement or as Senator Bill Bradley termed it, a "Pacific Coalition" would be more in-line with the two nations' trade mission and desire to resolve world economic problems.

TAIWAN'S BID FOR U.N. SEAT IN HIGH GEAR

Taipei - The government of the Republic of China on Taiwan is intensifying its campaign for United Nations membership in the lead up to the U.N. General Assembly meeting scheduled to convene Sept. 21.

Opposition groups have demanded that Taiwan declare independence in order to reclaim full membership in the international community. The Kuomintang government has countered with a campaign designed both to support the unification of China and engineer the ROC's return to the United Nations.

The KMT has stressed all along that the Chinese Communists, with their permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council would veto any application for U.N. membership from the Taiwan area, whether under the ROC title, or as an independent country. At the same time, ruling party leaders realised that Taiwan residents demand international recognition of their hard-earned achievements.

In last September's U.N. General Assembly meeting, after intensive lobbying, nine friendly members spoke up for the ROC. It is reported that 22 friends will support the ROC's bid at this year's session.

Two officials spoke for the ROC's U.N. membership bid this past week: Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien, and Government Information Office Director-General Jason C. Hu.

Chien stated that results of his ministry's efforts will be in evidence at the upcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly. He made the statement on a news commentary show broadcast on domestic television July 4. The U.N. general debate where friendly nations are expected to voice their support for the ROC bid, will kick off Sept. 29.

On the TV show, Chien said his ministry has formulated a plan to lead the ROC back to the world organisation. Participation in the United Nations was slated as his ministry's first priority, and aggressive lobbying got under way, starting May of this year, he added.

The foreign ministry was reluctant to reveal the contents of the plan. He said that keeping the plan secret would help forestall possible Chinese Communist obstruction.

He revealed, however, that his ministry is working to achieve several goals simultaneously: membership in U.N. peripheral organisations, observer status to the United Nations and full U.N. membership.

Chien showed unprecedented flexibility concerning the name under which the ROC would apply to join the United Nations. Instead of specifying a name, Chien said his ministry "has no predetermined position" and will keep its options open.

Chien said that were it not for the opposition of the Chinese Communists, most countries would be willing to support the ROC's return to the United Nations. He told the TV audience that the obstruction from Peking would make entering the United Nations a long fight.

At the same time, he said lobbying helps, and asked the public to solicit the support of foreign friends. He called on Taiwan residents to let the world know that it is unfair and wrong to leave the 20.8 million peace-loving people under ROC governance unrepresented in the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the GIO's Hu elaborated upon the same idea in Britain, where he traveled to promote the ROC's U.N. bid.

He told the British Broadcasting Corp. radio audience July 7 that the ROC's announcement of its intention to enter the United Nations not only demonstrated confidence and strength, but also reminded the international community that the Chinese Communists do not represent the people in Taiwan.

Hu said the issue of the representation of China was not solved in 1971 when the United Nations resolved to have the Chinese Communists take the seat formerly occupied by the ROC. The existence and prosperity of the Republic of China on Taiwan 22 years after the resolution is an obvious reminder of this fact.

Hu noted that ROC participation is in the United Nations would not hinder the ultimate unification of Taiwan and mainland China, but rather would help achieve that goal.

"If the ROC continues to be isolated by the international community, ROC citizens will be disappointed and may attempt to go their own way, which would reduce the possibility of unification of China," HU added.

The ROC dropped out of the United Nations when the Chinese Communists were seated in the organisations. Government efforts to return have continued, and some progress has been made so far.

New policies affect capital of Islamic militancy

By Tom Porteous

ASSIUT, Egypt — General Mohammad Samih Al Saeed likes to tell visitors about the most challenging moment in his military career when in the midst of the October 1973 war with Israel he was suddenly promoted to the 3rd Army, then was pinned down by Israeli forces in Suez. Twenty years later he is again facing the odds, as governor of Assiut, Egypt's most rebellious province, dubbed the capital of Islamic fundamentalism.

A graduate of the prestigious Nasr Academy, a former military attaché in Turkey and a man who has worked for many years in Egypt's intelligence establishment, Gen. Al Saeed feels that he has what it takes to handle the rebellion in Assiut. And judging from his performance since his appointment in April, he may be right.

Gen. Al Saeed took over this spring after one of the province's most turbulent years since the uprising there by Islamic militants which broke out after the assassination of President Sadat in 1981. For a year there have been almost weekly incidents of politically motivated violence in this poverty stricken region of southern Egypt.

At the centre of the trouble are the militant Gama'at Al Islamiyya, or Islamic Associations, and related groups which are struggling to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak and replace it with their version of a fundamentalist Islamic state. Few people seriously believe that these groups are capable of overthrowing the government. But, in the past year, the Gama'at in southern Egypt have stepped up their operations, targeting members of the local Christian community, the security forces and foreign tourists. If not a major threat, the groups are now a serious irritant to the regime of President Mubarak.

The authorities have responded with tough security measures. Among the methods reported to have been used by the police are torture, mass detention, extrajudicial killings and collective punishment of the families of those suspected of terrorism and of whole villages or districts suspected of sympathising with or harbouring militants. Critics of the government's iron-fist policy say it was more

appropriate to an army of occupation than to a national police force. Certainly the policy of collective punishment was losing popular support for the government in southern Egypt.

Since April, however, when Gen. Al Saeed took up the governorship of Assiut there has been a marked change in the attitude of the police. Gone is the heavy security presence in the provincial capital and surrounding villages, gone are the curfews which had disrupted normal life in the province. And the number of reported incidents of violence has dropped sharply.

"I hope we are going to make the incidents of terrorism less and less frequent," Gen. Al Saeed noted in an exclusive interview, "and as you will notice, we have made progress. Now terrorist acts are perpetrated by a few persons who are well known to the police. The police are searching for them with a new policy, a calm policy, not with punishments of whole villages or towns as in the past, or punishments of the members of the terrorists' families. The police are now searching for the terrorists themselves, without involving the whole town as happened in Abu Tig and Dayrout."

Abu Tig and Dayrout, urban centres near Assiut, were the scenes of some of the worst violence in the months up to last April. In both places, but also in the rest of the province—as Gen. Al Saeed admits—the hardline methods of the police, by alienating the general population and creating widespread sympathy for the extremists ended up hampering the government's efforts to catch those responsible for attacks on tourists and police.

His priority, he says, is "to deal with the people" and to promote unity, meanwhile narrowing the credibility gap between the police and the people. Gen. Al Saeed, the first governor of Assiut in recent years to be drawn from the army rather than from the police, was appointed as part of a shake-up of the top officials responsible for waging the battle against extremists in Egypt. The former governor of Assiut, Police General Hassan Al Alfi, was promoted to be minister of the interior, the third governor of Assiut to be promoted to Egypt's top security job. Meanwhile the former director of security in Assiut, whose job it was to execute the hardline policy of last summer and winter,



BAQI GIRGIS, pastor of the First Evangelical Church in Assiut, reports lessening of tensions between local people and security forces

has been transferred, replaced by Police General Mahmoud Antar.

Together the minister, the governor and the director of security have been responsible for putting in place the new security policy. In a late night interview at his headquarters by the banks of the Nile, Gen. Antar explained the policy in these terms:

"Here in Assiut, I have approximately 45 people accused but who are on the run from the prosecutor and the courts. In addition there are about 25 people who are leaders of those groups. They are the ideologues who encourage and provoke criminal acts. Altogether we are after a total of 80 or 100 people maximum. It is my job to make a sharp distinction between them and the 3 million inhabitants of Assiut. In fact this is the security policy that we have started in the last few weeks. We identify the wrongdoers and separate them from the rest of the population. As a result, police measures affecting the everyday activities of the people are now reduced, and the appearance of the police has become less aggressive. We concentrate on investigating and identifying the criminal elements and catching them. I have nothing to do with the ordinary citizens."

Generally the middle class, government employees, teachers and other professionals acknowledge that they have felt the effect of the new policy and that it had improved the relationship between the police and the general public.

"As a citizen of Assiut," said Dr. Jamil Aboul Eila, vice president of the Assiut branch of Al Azhar University, "I have not only felt the new policy but I have been reassured by the new style, and the fruit of this style has been reflected in the attitude of the people. Assiut has calmed down completely and normal life has returned. In Dayrout, which was a base for the extremist movement, life has returned to normal and the same is true of Abu Tig. The man in the street has seen the new style for himself and the confidence between the people and the police has been restored. After all, policemen are the sons and brothers of ordinary people. Now that everyone has become aware that the state wants to contain the crisis and to pursue the path of stability, the picture has completely changed."

Even members of the large Christian community in Assiut, who have most to fear from the long-term aims of the extremist militants and who initially welcomed the hardline clamp-down as a necessary protection, now say that it was counter-productive and they approve the new approach.

"For sure I can testify that this new policy has been felt by everybody," said Baqi Girgis, the pas-

tor of the First Evangelical Church in Assiut. "It just happens that last night I was at the police centre for some church business and I witnessed how the policemen there treated citizens — in a very polite way. This has had a great impact and the people are now very responsive and cooperative with the authorities. Nobody was happy with the deterioration of the relationship between the people and the police. As Egyptians we like peace and we are by nature against terrorism and extremism and all those 'isms' which cause so much trouble."

Some younger Christians, however, are more pessimistic and openly express their desire to emigrate. Canada being a favourite destination. If the police take the pressure off the Islamic extremists, said one young Christian called Ayman, they will be free to return to their old ways of making trouble for the Christians, and the police will be tempted to turn a blind eye to avoid making waves.

So far such fears have not been justified. But the often suspicious attitudes of the Christian and Muslim communities towards one another do lend weight to the view, often put forward, that it is the presence of a sizeable Christian minority (at about 35 per cent of the population it is the largest of any province in Egypt) which in part explains why religious extremism has found such fertile ground in Assiut.

"The Christians were in the past the rich of the region," says Gen. Antar. "Many of the poorer Muslims used to work for them in one capacity or another. With the revolution and development, the children of some of those poorer Muslims went to school and got an education and developed psychological complexes. The discontent was expressed by these groups with religious names which sponsored attacks on our Christian brothers; this contradicts the nature of the Egyptian people and contradicts the Islamic religion."

Another reason put forward by local people to explain the unusual level of violence in their province is the ancient tradition of vendetta, or blood feud. Even outside the context of political or sectarian violence, the honour of the family demands that a murder be avenged in kind. In southern Egypt, this principle has created a culture of violence, which has inevitably exacerbated the political and sectarian troubles of recent years, with blood feuds developing between Muslim and Christian communities and between police officers and members of the militant Islamic groups. Critics of the former police methods say that some of the excessive violence used by the police in apparent retribution for murders of officers can only be explained in terms of the tradition of vendetta.

"It is the problem of the kind of culture and traditions which exist in the countryside of the province of Assiut," says Mohammad Ibrahim Mansour, a senior professor at the faculty of commerce at Assiut University. "The tradition of vendetta is still widespread and it adds a particular edge to the political violence. In fact this is really one of the secrets why the problem of extremism is more acute here than elsewhere. Because the vendetta is part of people's value systems they see any confrontation between the Gama'at Al Islamiyya and the police or between the Gama'at Al Islamiyya and other citizens as having the nature of a vendetta."

The tradition of vendetta runs so deep that some blood feuds between families have been continued for generations, literally



Mohammad Al Saeed

for hundreds of years, even though the original source of the feud is long forgotten. It is also an important reason why the people of the region are so heavily armed and so adroit in the use of guns.

The new governor, Gen. Al Saeed, admits that the tradition of vendetta has hampered the peacekeeping efforts of the government, and he is clearly anxious to prevent the police from getting involved in blood feuds of the kind that can only increase the spiral of violence. In May, shortly after his appointment, some of the regional police commanders in the province were transferred and replaced by new men. Gen. Al Saeed is also anxious to impose stricter gun control in his province.

"The people in this part of Egypt are used to having weapons," says Gen. Al Saeed. "Everyone has his own pistol or his own rifle. They are very keen on firearms. It is a problem but we are planning to organise gun control. At present the extremists can buy arms almost anywhere. There is a free market for pistols, rifles and automatic guns. It is not difficult to get a weapon from a shop or from private citizens."

There are also relatively recent political factors which have encouraged the growth of Islamic extremism in Assiut, and Gen. Al Saeed freely acknowledges that some of the blame lies in the political manipulation of earlier governments. "It seems to me that this problem started here more than 15 years ago in the days of Mohammad Osman," says Gen. Al Saeed, referring to a former governor, a local of Assiut who was appointed by former President Sadat. Sadat encouraged the Gama'at Al Islamiyya as a political counter-weight to weaken the radical student opposition, then dominated by the Communist and Nasserist movements. Mohammad Osman executed this policy in Assiut with particular vigor, giving a free reign to the Gama'at Al Islamiyya.

"Maybe Osman thought he would build up the Islamic movement against the activities of the Communists," says Gen. Al Saeed, "but he didn't control it very well." This is something of an understatement. By 1981, the Islamic movement was not only strong, it was in firm opposition to President Sadat's foreign and economic policies. It was militants within the movement who assassinated Sadat in October of that year. After the assassination, the Islamic movement launched an armed rebellion in Assiut, storming and briefly occupying the headquarters of the director of security. The uprising was firmly put down by the army.

But underlying the phenomenon of political extremism in Assiut as well as the culture of violence manifested in the tradition of vendetta, are the pro-

vince's economic problems: poverty, unemployment, a burgeoning population, underdevelopment. One of the main challenges of the governor is to try to persuade the central government to allocate more resources to the region and to attract local and foreign private investors. "Of course the economic situation is one element which helps these extremist groups," says Gen. Al Saeed. "They can recruit from the unemployed by offering money. But now the government is looking after southern Egypt better than before. They are putting more money into the region and we hope that when the security situation has improved there will be more private investment coming to Assiut, from Egyptians and from abroad."

But economic development is likely to be an uphill struggle. Assiut, like the rest of the southern region, is not a top priority either for the public or for the

private sector. In fact the region has traditionally been either ignored or exploited by the economic planners and businessmen in Cairo. The one sector which has seen investment and some transitory profits — tourism — has been badly affected by the present troubles.

"In reality," says Professor Mansour of the faculty of commerce at Assiut University, "we have to look for the political, economic and social roots of this phenomenon in the nature of the society of Upper Egypt — a society where poverty and underdevelopment is widespread. The standard of living is very low and the rate of unemployment very high, especially in the villages; it's there that the phenomenon of militancy is most widespread. Assiut province has few natural and agricultural resources and little industry. Land ownership is not well distributed and the peasants' share of the agricultural

land is very small. In any case the amount of agricultural land in relation to the population is tiny because the province consists of a narrow strip of fertile land, the rest being desert. The only way out of the problem is expansion in the desert, east and west, and the creation of new industrial towns that could absorb the large number of graduates from secondary schools and universities."

Like Gen. Al Saeed, Professor Mansour does see some positive signs in recent promises of economic help from Cairo. But until such promises are realised, until a serious effort is made to improve the economic conditions of the vast majority and to create jobs for the thousands of young men and women who graduate each year, the political slogans of the extreme fringe of the Islamic opposition will continue to win converts, and Assiut will remain a centre for the extremist movement — World News Link.



A child waits for her father to vote in the lower house parliamentary election Sunday at a Tokyo polling station. The Liberal Democratic Party failed to win a simple majority in the 511-seat chamber (AFP photo)

Japanese party loses majority

(Continued from page 1)

outright majority in the election, but always managed to garner enough independent supporters. The Liberal Democrats lost their majority in the less powerful upper house in 1989 following an influence-buying scandal.

Perhaps discouraged by rainy

weather, many voters chose to stay away from the polls. The Home Affairs Ministry said that 61.26 per cent of the 94.9 million eligible voters turned out, about six percentage points lower than in the 1990 lower house election. On the island of Okushiri, which was ravaged by an earthquake last week, only about half the eligible voters turned out.

The German Protestant Institute for Archaeology in Amman offers a position for a secretary from Aug. 1. Fluent German and English is required, both spoken and written. Substantial knowledge of Arabic and some experience with computer work would be appreciated.

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German deficit could rise if recovery falters



Theo Waigel

BOONN (R) — German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, who has been pointing to encouraging signs that the recession is ending, said Sunday that he would be forced to raise the budget deficit if the recovery falters.

Mr. Waigel told Deutschlandfunk Radio that if it did not take hold as predicted, he would have to compensate for falling tax revenue by borrowing more.

"Then automatic stabilising factors must take hold. That means that we, like all the countries around us, would have to accept a certain rise in the deficit," he said.

He called "realistic" new government forecasts that the fall in west Germany's gross domestic product (GDP) this year could be held to 1.5 per cent, compared to earlier forecasts of 2 to 2.5 per cent.

He ruled out the only alternative to raising borrowing — new taxes — as even worse for the economy. "The introduction of additional taxes at the current time, particularly direct taxes, is not economically sound," he said.

Bonn is forecasting a budget deficit of around 67 billion marks (\$39 billion) a year in 1993 and 1994. That could be lowered to 38 billion marks (\$22 billion) by 1997, provided GDP grows by one per cent next year.

The deficit reduction will be brought about by cutting over 20 billion marks (\$12 billion) in federal spending and new tax increases in 1995.

The government and some of Germany's leading economic think-tanks have said recently that the worst of the recession may be over, strengthening hopes for a modest recovery in 1994.

This would put Germany back on track for joining a single European currency later this decade,

as set out in the Maastricht treaty on political and economic and monetary union.

Mr. Waigel said he would reduce the deficit to three per cent of GDP as called for in the treaty. "That means we have a good chance... to reach the goals of Maastricht by 1995-96."

While defending the Bundesbank's independence, Mr. Waigel made it clear he would like to see further cuts in the central bank's leading interest rates to fuel a recovery.

As he has often done in the past to dispel international criticism of German interest rates, Mr. Waigel noted that long-term rates were already near historical lows.

"I cannot be said that we are a high interest rate country," he said. "But still I would, of course, be happy if further cuts in leading interest rates were possible."

He added that such cuts would have to be earned through sound fiscal policies and falling inflation. "Anything else would lead to weakness of the mark and that is exactly what we do not want."

Mr. Waigel said the Bundesbank must keep a close eye on inflation and money supply, as well as government financial policies.

"If there is relaxation in these areas, then, I believe, the Bundesbank will use the chance to lower interest rates further," he said.

Mr. Waigel also tried to take the wind out of the sails of currency speculators who have renewed attacks on the French franc and Danish crown.

"The European monetary system is working and I can only say the fundamental data in France as well as Germany are in order," he said, "and we will continue our good cooperation."

Mr. Waigel added that the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo had performed well since their last realignment.

Population growth will mean less food to go round — book

WASHINGTON (R) — There will be less to eat in coming years as worldwide food production fails to keep pace with burgeoning population growth, according to a book by the Worldwatch Institute released Saturday. The second edition of "Vital Signs: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future," by the private environmental think-tank, maps out a bleak future, noting that farms, livestock ranches and oceanic fisheries are all unable to further boost their production of food.

World per capita grain output, which climbed 40 per cent between 1950 and 1984, has fallen eight per cent over the past eight years due to lack of growth in cropland areas, low water supplies and the decreasing effectiveness of fertilizer.

Meat production, which rose 78 per cent from 1950 to 1990 to bring per capita meat production 32 kilograms from 18 kilograms, fell one per cent between 1990 and 1992.

Oceanic fisheries have also reached their limits, with the annual catch peaking at 100 million tonnes in 1989, and per capita output falling seven per cent since then.

At the same time, 91 million people are added to the world's population each year, which means that their food needs can only be satisfied by reducing consumption among those already here, the book concludes.

The new data underlines the need to slow growth in the world's population, which is set to reach 10.7 billion by 2030 if current growth rates continue.

Vital signs also included data showing that: — The number of refugees in the world climbed to an all-time high of 18 million in 1992.

— The world's wind power generating capacity doubled to 2,652 megawatts in the six years to 1992, and wind generators in California now produce enough energy to satisfy the residential needs of Washington and San Francisco.

— After four decades of nearly uninterrupted growth, world use of coal is no longer growing and actually fell 1.4 per cent during 1990 and 1991.

— The book also noted that the world's population is growing faster than food production, and that the world's food production is falling behind demand.

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Arab oil market to rise in Asia and Pacific — study

MANAMA (R) — Arab oil sales to the Asia-Pacific region should grow but the market in the West is mostly stagnant, a study by the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation said.

"Robust economic growth and energy demand is shifting the Arab focus from the large but relatively stagnant markets of the West to the small but dynamic economies of the East," said the study, published in ABC's quarterly magazine.

Two-way trade between the Arab World and the Asia-Pacific region in 1991 stood at \$27 billion compared to \$26 billion in 1990, it said.

The 1991 figure accounted for 11 per cent of the Arab region's world trade, the study said. It said total figures for 1992 were not available, but a table of January to September 1992 figures showed exports from Hong Kong to the Arab World went up by 12 per cent, from Indonesia up by 12 per cent, while imports from the Arab World to Singapore went up by 12 per cent.

The study said that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dominated the East Asian-Arab trade relationship. In 1991 the two countries accounted for 65 per cent of the Asian region's Arab exports and 80 per cent of its imports.

"The sizeable share of the East Asian Bloc in Arab World trade is largely explained by the significant proportion of total Gulf crude oil and product exports to East Asia," it said.

It said that Arab crude especially from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE was refined in Singapore then shipped to other regional markets, which has made Singapore the Arab World's main export customer in the Asia-Pacific region.

It said some Asian countries were also encouraging an Arab role, and investments in their oil industry.

India has been opening its doors to foreign investors since Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao took power in June 1991 and launched a series of economic reforms.

India's central bank said it had approved 386 foreign investment proposals worth \$366.95 million dollars since September 1991.

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Gulf investment income sharply down after war

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A steep decline in Kuwait's overseas assets after the Iraqi invasion has sharply reduced income from investment in Gulf Arab states, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Revenues from investment in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and three other Arab oil producers — Iraq, Libya and Algeria — plunged to 5.7 per cent of their total revenues of \$85.1 billion in 1991, the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a report.

Oil provided 67.3 per cent of the revenues while taxes accounted for 18.8 per cent and other earnings for 8.2 per cent, the report said.

Before Kuwait was forced to sell more than half its overseas assets of around \$100 billion in

come from investment in the nine nations stood at 14.6 per cent and was as high as 19.3 per cent in 1986.

Bankers attributed the high level in 1986 to a large drop in oil revenues — to \$45 billion after crude prices dipped to below \$10 because of a production war within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The AMF report said oil earnings accounted for 50 per cent of the total revenues of the 10 countries in 1986, for 62 per cent in 1989 and 68.4 per cent in 1990, when a sharp rise in oil prices during the Gulf war pushed up income to more than \$100 billion.

Before the Iraqi invasion in August 1990, Kuwait's investments abroad, mostly in the West, yielded as much as its oil revenues of more than \$10 billion a

year. Iraq also had billions of dollars in overseas assets, but were frozen by most countries after the invasion.

In contrast, oil was the lowest contributor to revenues in the remaining nine Arab League nations as most of them do not have oil. It provided 5.8 per cent of the total income of \$32 billion in 1991, the AMF said.

Tax earnings were as high as 68.6 per cent, while foreign aid stood at 4.2 per cent and other revenues at 21.4 per cent.

Iraq, Libya, Algeria and GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce more than 15 million barrels per day of oil. In the other group, only Egypt, Syria and Yemen produce crude in commercial quantities.

Foreign investment in India rises

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Foreign investment in India is up significantly in the first half of 1993, according to official figures.

"The first five months this year investment worth 3.20 billion rupees (\$1.1 billion) was approved by the government as against 38.90 billion rupees (\$12.9 billion) in 1992 and 5.3 billion (\$176 million) the previous year," an official release said.

More than 90 per cent of the investment was in high-priority areas such as power, oil, food processing, chemicals, electrical and electronics equipment, telecommunications, transportation, industrial and hotels, it added.

The United States is the biggest investor in India, with projects worth 19.42 billion rupees (\$647 million) in the pipeline for the first half of this year. U.S. investment in the country last year was worth 12.13 billion rupees (\$410 million), according to the release.

Investments from Australia, Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and Switzerland have also shown a significant increase, the release added.

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under the government's new industrial policy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement that the largest number of proposals came from the United States (75), followed by Germany (64) and Britain (48).

U.S. investors also lead in investment with 118 million dollars, followed by Japan (\$57 million) and Switzerland (\$37 million).

India's industrial policy, announced in July 1991, provides for automatic clearance of direct investment proposals with 51 per cent foreign equity within 15 days, doing away with red tape.

Meanwhile, India's government has finally found a widely acceptable solution to the sensitive issue of shutting down ailing industrial units. Labour Minister Purno Sangma has said.

Mr. Sangma said the govern-

ment was putting final touches to a bill which would leave negotiations over closures to employers and workers themselves, with the possibility of independent arbitration.

"The new thing here is that the government will not be a party to disputes between workers and employers. Earlier the government played a pivotal role in all such disputes," Mr. Sangma told Reuters in an interview.

"The government role now is to provide infrastructure for development and lay down policy guidelines, and not be bogged down in disputes between labour and management."

"We have hit upon a formula neither unions or employers can reject, which at the same time causes least political damage to the government," Mr. Sangma said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 19, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Leo offers you the opportunity to follow your intuition concerning what work must be done in order to achieve the success you are seeking. Certain labours are expected of you in business and personal life.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You find worldly interests can be quickly attended to early in the day but later you want to get into more personal outlets which do not work well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new approach at your most powerful ambitions can be made to work well in the daytime but avoid trying to make them work in public later in the day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can get into those practical interests and solve them sensibly in the daytime, while tonight you want to get off to some new interests but the timing is not yet right.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to show a partner you are loyal and to be trusted while tonight don't try to match someone else's generosity.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Think about the various and sundry activities at which you can show your operative skill after which don't try to get a partner to do your bidding.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) If you have some entertainment that you have missed, make

arrangements now to enjoy it after which confine yourself to tasks that must be done.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is your morning to get everything in apple pie order at your own residence and later don't be upset if you can't get special assistance to work.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your thoughts are clear and can be well expressed in companions in the morning but later conditions at home can be a trial for your patience.

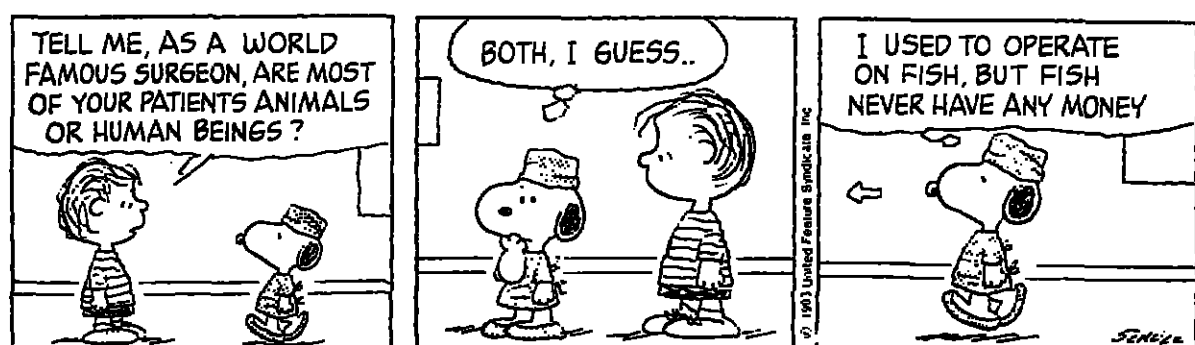
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is your morning to get into ways to do what will increase your income and property while later you can't get data you desire from sources.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out now to find out how to bring your fondest aims right into your orb of expression and later use economy in expenditures.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Consider what your very down to earth ambitions are and avoid wishful thinking but later you can find ways to improve and revitalise your health.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Consult with a purposeful friend who has your interests at heart, how to get ahead more quickly and then get into annoying practical part you must do.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



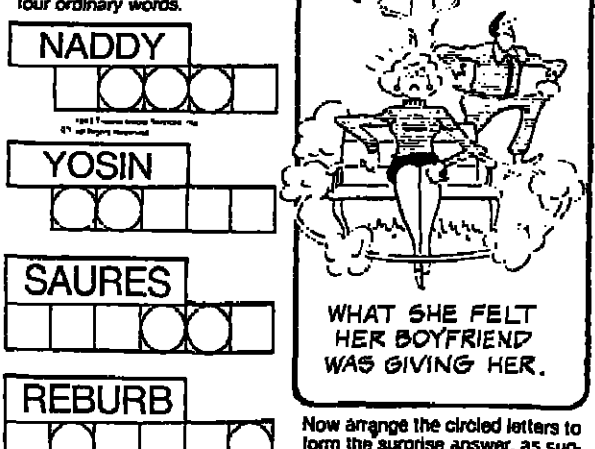
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



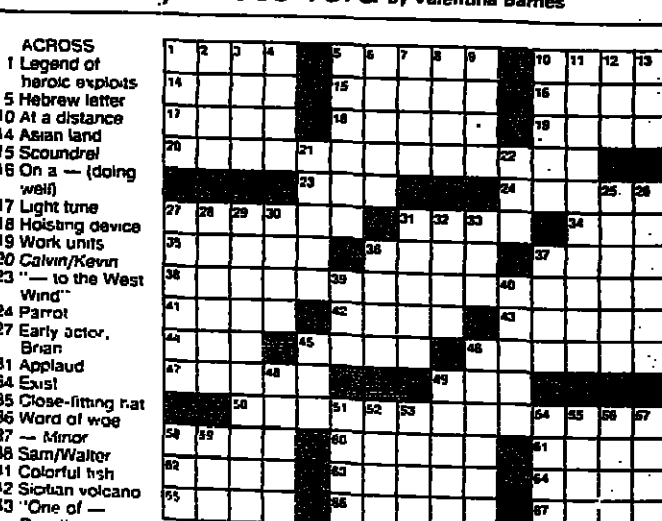
Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAGUE ROACH EMBRYO ARCADE

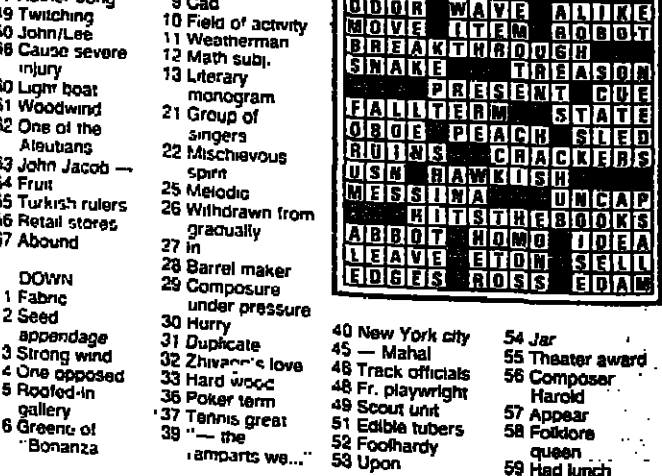
Answer: The thing that every woman hopes doesn't show—HER AGE

THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Izetbegovic rules out joining Geneva talks without ceasefire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Sunday ruled out attending renewed peace talks with international mediators in Geneva unless rebel Serbs stop offensives against Muslims.

Mr. Izetbegovic, speaking after meeting Russian peace envoy Vitaly Churkin, appeared to resolve confusion over whether the collective presidency he heads would join the talks before or only after key conditions were met by its civil war foes.

"We cannot go there if offensive activities in Bosnia continue, especially against Sarajevo," he told reporters.

"Under current conditions, I don't see that we could be ready to go today or tomorrow, but if we found ourselves at the negotiating table I'm convinced we might reach a settlement."

After a presidency session Saturday, Mr. Izetbegovic had seemed to open the door to fresh talks without preconditions by wavering on the wisdom of his own plan for peace — preserving Bosnia as a federation as opposed to a Serb-Croat plan for confederal division.

Bosnian government radio Sunday read out a statement made by Mr. Izetbegovic after a meeting of the collective presidency Saturday, in which he expressed doubts about his peace course.

"While I listened to the discussions I thought about two dilemmas. The first was, how realistic our suggestions are," the Muslim president was quoted by the radio as saying.

"Is a united Bosnia the way to peace or not? What is more important? How would the people

vote if they had to choose between these two things?" Mr. Izetbegovic went on.

"It seems at the moment that they cannot go together."

But Mr. Izetbegovic gave no hint as to whether Bosnia's 10-member presidency might now bend to the counter-proposal of rebel Serbs and Croats to divide Bosnia into three ethnically-based mini states in a loose confederation.

Mr. Izetbegovic has previously denounced confederation as a ratification of genocide — the killing and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Muslims from Serb — and Croat-held territory in the vicious 15-month-old conflict.

"I would like to say to the soldiers: They have done a great job. There isn't an army in the world like this (which battles on) while deprived of everything — clothes, ammunition and weapons," Mr. Izetbegovic said.

The Serbs have seized 70 per cent of Bosnia and the Croats 20 per cent, but government forces have counter-attacked in the past few days to capture several key towns from the Croats in central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs were advancing under cover of heavy shellfire Sunday toward Mount Igman, a strategic slope overlooking Sarajevo, the Bosnian army reported.

The army's press centre admitted in a bulletin that the Serbs had broken through defence lines of the Bosnian army and had occupied the nearby hamlet of Golubovo.

Other Serb forces had broken through Bosnian army lines just south of the capital and were

advancing toward the villages of Ljetic, Dobro Vode and Sijak, all in the foothills of Mount Igman, the army said.

The forested mountain looms over Sarajevo Airport, and is the only route for smuggling supplies through the Serb forces surrounding Sarajevo to or from government-held positions elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The army said the Serbs were continuing heavy shelling Sunday as they closed in on the mountain from the northwest and from the south along a supply line leading from Trnovo, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Sarajevo, a town the Serbs captured from the Bosnian army on July 11, after fierce fighting.

Foreign observers counted at least 28 Serb tanks advancing toward Igman Saturday around the northwestern outskirts of Sarajevo.

Sarajevo radio reported that the Serbs fired some 2,000 shells Saturday as they fought for the mountain.

Meanwhile, European Community (EC) foreign ministers, casting around for ways to boost their influence in the Bosnian war, will debate Monday whether to turn up the diplomatic heat on Croatia.

Diplomats said several EC member states wanted Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, current holder of the EC presidency, to visit former Yugoslavia and warn Croatia it risked economic sanctions if it did not change its behaviour.

However, they said the ministers were unlikely to impose sanctions now, and any threat for Mr. Claes to carry to Zagreb might be limited in the first instance to

cancelling routine trade concessions.

Ministers will also debate the deteriorating situation on the ground in Bosnia, the growing difficulties in the way of humanitarian aid distribution and faltering efforts to fulfil a U.N. Security Council plan to turn some of the war's worst trouble-spots into "safe zones."

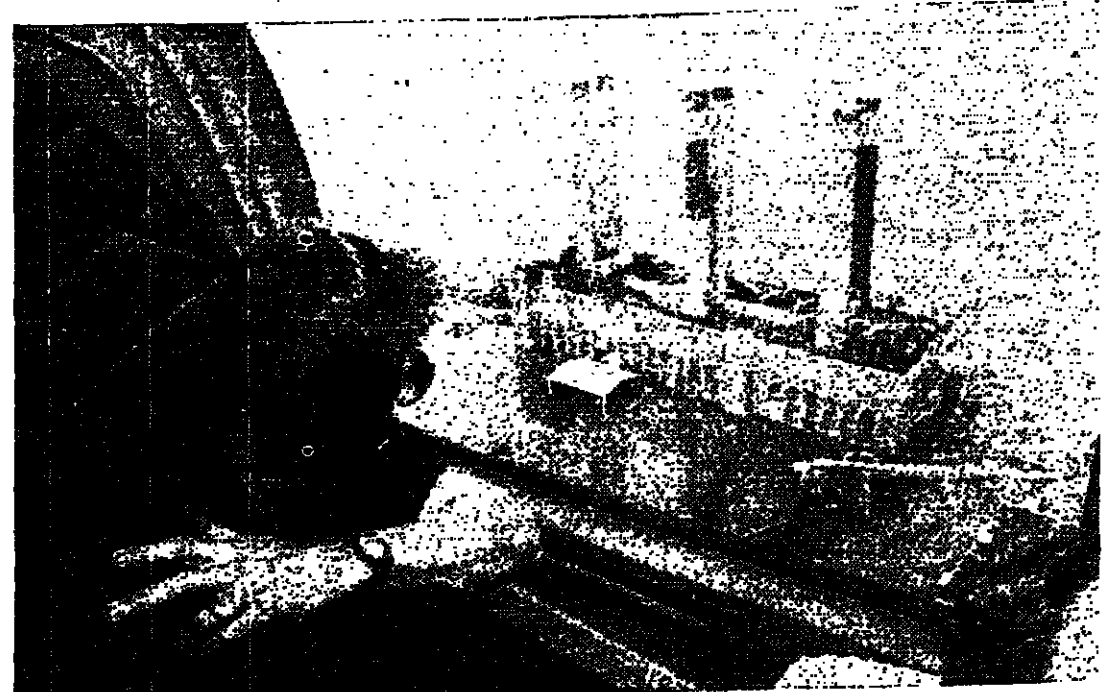
Apart from French and Dutch decisions to contribute in total about 1,200 more troops, there has been little response to a loudly-trumpeted pledge by the EC's summit in Copenhagen last month to contribute more men and money to making the safe zones a reality.

There was a diplomats' note in some EC diplomats' comments before Monday's regular ministerial meeting. "No one knows what will happen. Everyone is waiting for one else to move," said one. Another said there was little the EC could do when those who are trying to help seemed bent on bloodshed.

Croatia has crept higher up the West's cast of villains in the Bosnian conflict, sharing more of the blame with Serbia for the drive to carve up Bosnia on ethnic lines through violence and ethnic cleansing.

The EC warned on June 8 that they would "initiate restrictive measures against Croatia" if required.

At their Tokyo summit this month, the Group of Seven (G7) rich industrial countries, which includes EC Germany, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, lumped Croatia and Serbia together in urging them to stop "dismembering Bosnia" through violence.



U.S. President Bill Clinton looks at a flooded power plant in the Mississippi-Missouri Rivers area near St. Louis (AFP photo)

More heavy rain falls in midwest as Clinton visits for 3rd time

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — No relief was in sight after six weeks of the worst flooding in the United States this century, as storms dumped as much as 5 inches (12.5 centimetres) of rain across parts of the midwest.

President Bill Clinton said Saturday he may send in federal troops.

Mr. Clinton, who visited the region twice before in the last two weeks, shook his head as he leaned out of a helicopter and saw where the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers had converged in St. Charles County, Mo.

"Mother nature is having its way with us," he said.

The flooding blocked a key bridge Saturday, turning the Mississippi River into a 200-mile-long (320-kilometre-long) wall blocking east-west traffic.

Heavy rains fell in Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Illinois and as far west as Wyoming.

"It's economic devastation for the entire area," groaned Mayor Richard Schwartz of Hannibal, Mo., near the West Quincy, Mo., levee that failed Friday night, despite six weeks of work.

Flooding has been blamed for 27 deaths and more than \$5 billion in damage, with more than 10 million acres (40 million hectares) of farmland submerged. Bridges, roads and rail lines were shut, disrupting cargo shipments.

In Glasgow, Mo., the Army Corps of Engineers tried to rebuild a broken levee to keep the Missouri River from cutting a new channel and changing course. In Des Moines, National Guardsmen and other workers rushed to shore up a severely eroded levee and hundreds of homes and businesses were hurriedly evacuated.

Flash flooding struck sparsely populated areas of the eastern Dakotas. In northeastern South Dakota, a flood warning was posted for the James River, which flows into the Missouri River, after an area that got 3 inches (7.5 centimetres) of rain Friday got that much more Saturday.

At a meeting in Arnold, a St. Louis suburb, Mr. Clinton told eight state governors and a representative of a ninth that he was considering sending in federal troops — as was done after hurricane Andrew last year in Florida — to help 7,300 National Guard troops already on duty.

"If you do feel you need some relief...I hope you will try to deal with that," Mr. Clinton told the governors.

Nearly 500 volunteers worked to avert flooding where the Mississippi and Meramec Rivers meet. Crests on both rivers were expected in that area in the next couple of days.

The Des Moines River carved a 50-foot-wide (15-metre-wide) chug from a levee near downtown Des Moines. The National Guard and other workers shored up the gap with dirt, sand, gravel, parts of downed trees and plastic sheeting. An evacuation order covering about 700 homes and many businesses was scaled back later Saturday as the levee was being stabilized.

The crisis didn't affect efforts to restore running water to 250,000 people in the Des Moines area who went without for a seventh day. The water plant is in a different part of town. One of its three pumps was flown back to the plant Saturday.

Chinese refugee deportation set to end

ENSENADA, Mexico (R) — The deportation of two boatloads of Chinese boat people was expected to end Sunday even as the U.S. Coast Guard kept a wary eye on other ships thought to be ferrying hundreds more illegal immigrants across the Pacific Ocean.

One plane filled with would-be immigrants left Tijuana's International Airport Saturday and officials made preparations to ship the rest of the more than 400 boat people late Saturday and early Sunday.

The fate of a third ship carry more than 200 Chinese was uncertain. A spokesman for Mexico's Interior Ministry said it remained in international waters because of an undisclosed "political problem."

Just as one major operation neared an end, the Coast Guard appeared to be gearing up for another. Officials in Washington said several other vessels believed to be carrying Chinese refugees were spotted heading for Hawaii, destined to enter U.S. waters this weekend.

Chief Warrant Officer Rick Meidt, a Coast Guard spokesman in Washington, said of the suspected smuggling ships: "We're gathering information on them."

The repatriated boat people, who endured squalid, unsanitary conditions while subsisting on undercooked rice and foul water, were cast adrift for nearly a week as the United States and Mexico bickered over who would take responsibility for them.

After first adamantly refusing a U.S. request to accept the ships, the Mexican government reversed itself Wednesday and agreed to take charge of them.

When the two ships arrived in Ensenada before dawn, they were escorted by a flotilla of Mexican warships.

Dozens of armed Mexican troops immediately surrounded the ships to prevent escape. Some passengers had threatened to put up violent resistance to Mexico's repatriation plan, but in the end they were all taken into custody without a struggle. Interior Ministry spokesman Jorge Medina said.

Most appeared tired and ragged as they ended their grueling, three-month voyage across the Pacific. "On their faces, there was a look of sadness and uncertainty," said Rosa Guadalupe Alvarez, a Mexican army nurse who treated some of the passengers.

Many could be seen crying as they were bused out of Ensenada.

Fifty-eight passengers applied for political asylum while the ships were in U.S. Coast Guard custody, but only one was admitted into the United States Friday.

The first plane was to make stops in Barbados, East Africa and the United Arab Emirates before landing at its final destination in Xiamen in China's Fujian province," Mr. Medina said.

Tajikistan rebels stage another border attack

MOSCOW (AFP) — Tajik Islamic rebels based in Afghanistan fired rockets at Russian Border Guard units stationed along the border with Tajikistan in the latest of a string of attacks, the Interfax News Agency reported Sunday.

The eight rockets fired Saturday caused no casualties, and he Russian troops at the Tajik border post failed to destroy the guerrilla batteries tucked away in the region's mountainous terrain, Interfax said, quoting the high command of the Russian Border Guard.

The post was near another post destroyed in a rebel attack Tuesday and Wednesday that killed 25 of 47 Russian Guards stationed there and prompted Russia's parliament to approve the wider use of Russian military force to protect the border.

Muslim fighters opposed to the pro-Communist leadership in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, were chased out of Tajikistan in a violent government crackdown late last year. They have since found refuge in Mujahadeen-run camps in the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

Russia has posted 3,500 border troops on the Tajik-Afghan border as part of an agreement reached last year by the Com-

monwealth of Independent states (CIS) to stop the flow of arms and drugs from war-torn Afghanistan to Central Asia and keep out the thousands of exiled Tajik opposition fighters.

The Islamic rebels staged another attack overnight Friday but the commander of the Russian Border Guard, Valery Kochenov, denied Sunday reports that two Border Guards had been killed.

Gen. Kochenov added that units of 20 to 70 Tajik rebels had been spotted moving along the border in recent days.

The commander of the Russian army, General Vladimir Semenov, just back from a trip to the region along with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, said Russia's 201st Motorized Rifle Division, based in Tajikistan, would be strengthened to help the Border Guards.

Meanwhile, Afghan radio charged Saturday that more than 300 people have been killed or injured in artillery attacks launched by Russian forces from across the border.

An Afghan government spokesman said the cabinet had decided to ask the United Nations to halt deployment of Russian forces along the border and suggested talks to solve the problem.

Russians claim win in Estonia referendum

NARVA, Estonia (R) — Russian-speakers in two Estonian towns Sunday claimed victory in a weekend referendum after local people voted overwhelmingly for territorial autonomy within the ex-Soviet Baltic state.

Over 97 per cent of Narva voters and 98.6 per cent of voters in nearby Sillamäe supported autonomy. But low turnout — just over the 50 per cent threshold needed — provided the poll's chief opponent, the Estonia government, with fresh ammunition.

Estonia's Foreign Ministry quickly accused referendum organizers of falsifying the results, saying that less than half the population had actually voted, Baltfax News Agency said. The government has declared the Russians' poll illegal.

"Turnout was desperately low and there have been serious violations in the procedure," government representative Indrek Tarand told journalists after making an unexpected appearance at an election news conference.

Azeri police crack down on opposition

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's police used guns and truncheons to break up a protest by backers of fugitive President Abulfaz Elchibey and they shut down his party's headquarters, his supporters and news agencies said Sunday.

"All roads to the Popular Front's headquarters are blocked. There are militiamen posted at the entrance to the building who are refusing to let anyone in," Yagiv Rustamov, director of Azerinform News Agency, told Reuters by telephone Sunday.

A spokesman for Mr. Elchibey's nationalist Popular Front Movement said police had ripped phones and fax machines out of the building in a leafy Baku square.

The president, elected a year ago, fled an armed rebellion last month. The former Soviet state is

now being run by acting President Geidar Aliyev, a former Soviet politburo member, and by rebel leader turned Prime Minister Suret Guseinov.

The Popular Front spokesman said that on Saturday evening police fired automatic rifles into the air to break up a pro-Elchibey demonstration and used truncheons to disperse a crowd of a few hundred people. No-one was injured.

Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency said about 30 people had been arrested. Police have broken up several pro-Elchibey protests since the president escaped.

Mr. Elchibey's former security and interior ministers and the ex-head of parliament Isa Gambarov were detained Friday, during a parliament session in Baku, accused of provoking the conflict

which started when government troops tried to disarm the rebels. Parliament stopped short of impeaching Mr. Elchibey Saturday for his role in the bloody June clashes which followed the government troops' attempt to quell rebel forces.

Deputies postponed a decision on Mr. Elchibey's fate until next week but said he bore political responsibility for the clashes, in the western city of Gyanzha.

On Friday, a parliament commission studying the Gyanzha events recommended the indictment of several former ministers, and top officials for their alleged role in the fighting, in which at least 35 people were killed.

Washington condemned the move and urged the parliament's chairman and Mr. Aliyev to stick to assurances he had given Washington over democracy in Azerbaijan.

Mick Jagger celebrates 50 in revolutionary style

LONDON (R) — Rock-'n'-roll legend Mick Jagger celebrated his 50th birthday in style at the weekend — at a French revolutionary banquet. Up to 300 celebrities, including fellow Rolling Stones Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood, Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman, gathered at the grounds of a suburban London teaching college complete with a guillotine to help Jagger celebrate. The ageing rebel of the early 60s, who hits the half century mark on July 26, was dressed for the theme but refused to be photographed. Other guests were not so shy. "Charlie Watts showed a certain flair, arriving as Robespierre, while Ronnie Wood's Napoleonic officer's costume, complete with bicorne hat, was more historically dubious," the Mail On Sunday said. The one-time bad boy of rock who is now a grandfather partied till the early hours with his Texan wife, fashion model Jerry Hall, who was dressed as Marie-Antoinette. "He and Jerry finally called it a night at 6 a.m. and slipped out the back door. Not bad for a 50-year-old," the Mail added.

Kenyan policeman gets 50 years for rape

NAIROBI (R) — Police Corporal Philemon Ombitsa, 47, was sentenced to 50 years jail Saturday and ordered to receive tea strokes of the cane for raping a pregnant woman, the Kenya News Agency reported Sunday. Ombitsa, married with 11 children, had denied the charge. The incident occurred at Kajjido, kilometres south of Nairobi.

China finds new treatment for heroin addicts

PEKING (AFP) — China has discovered a new method of treating heroin addicts that avoids the formation of a new dependency, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. Keleining, a medicine usually used to lower blood pressure, has been used to cure more than 200 people in six treatment centres in central Shaanxi and southwestern Yunnan provinces, the agency quoted Jiang Zuoning, a medical doctor, as saying. The treatment has been approved by China's Ministry of Public Health and is effective, fast-working and safe because it contains no drug substitute and therefore carries no threat of dependency, Dr. Jiang said. The only side effect is drowsiness in the first three days of treatment, he said. Meitai, done, the drug usually used to treat heroin addicts, creates its own dependency. Yunnan — bordering the Golden Triangle drug-producing region straddling Thailand, Burma and Laos — has the highest concentration of heroin addicts in China.

Police called to theatre after audience protests

LONDON (AP) — Police were called to a theatre after an angry audience protested the cancellation of the second night performance of the musical Grease, Scotland Yard said. Officers went to the Dominion Theatre in London's theatre district night after members of the audience booed and demanded their money back. A computer-controlled hydraulic platform carrying a band jammed three minutes after the show started. The 2,000 members of the audience were kept waiting for one hour while technicians tried to fix it. When the cancellation was announced, boos and catcalls drove the theatre manager from the stage. Up to 500 disgruntled ticket holders protested and demanded an immediate refund, but the crowd dispersed shortly after police arrived and no arrests were made, said a Scotland Yard spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity. The show's stars, Craig McLachlan and Debbie Gibson, appeared many by staying late to sign autographs. The £2-million (\$3.5 million) show, a stage revival of the 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, had fans dancing in the aisles on opening night.

Frenchman claims world record in paragliding

NIMES, France (AP) — A French parachutist claims to have broken the world distance record in paragliding, having been towed 261 miles (415 kms) by boat off southern France. Jean-Claude Piccio said he remained airborne for 11 hours as his partner, Didier Larnac, navigated the boat between Port-Camargue west of Marseille and the Cap d'Agde near Beziers. A local official confirmed the stunt Friday. The distance would nearly double the record set by Swiss parachutist Urs Harri, who paraglided 142 (229 kms) in Namibia on Jan. 15, 1992.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's quake toll rises to 174

TOKYO (AFP) — The death toll from the strongest earthquake recorded in the Sea of Japan hit 174 Sunday with 74 others missing, while new data suggested that an island had subsided in the tumbler. Aftershocks continued to rumble through Okushiri Island, the hardest hit by the quake six days ago, while construction of 100 makeshift houses began for some of its 4,700 islanders. The body of a 92-year-old man was plucked from waters as more than 100 divers joined a 300-strong land and sea search operation involving 42 patrol boats around Okushiri, which lies to the west of Japan's main northern island of Hokkaido. On Okushiri alone, 148 were listed dead and 67 others missing in the quake which struck with a Richter scale magnitude of 7.8, police said. Hokkaido's regional maritime safety authorities said the seabed at Okushiri's main port was found to have subsided up to 80 centimetres (32 inches). On Friday, the Tokyo University Seismology Institute said that the foundation of the island as a whole had subsided by some 50 centimetres (20 inches) in the quake.

ANC bodyguard killed by S. African police

JOHANNESBURG (R) — An ANC bodyguard was killed and two others were hurt early Sunday when police traded shots with securitymen escorting a senior ANC official home from Nelson Mandela's 75th birthday party. Police said the African National Congress (ANC) guards fired first. The ANC said it was the police who initiated the shooting on a highway leading to Soweto township. An ANC statement said the incident occurred in the early morning when an unmarked police car tried to break into a three-car convoy escorting ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu home from the birthday dinner. "When the lead vehicle of the security escort slowed to force the unidentified vehicle to move away from the ANC deputy president's vehicle, shots were fired at the convoy," the driver of the lead vehicle was shot and subsequently died, resulting in the car overturning. The other occupants were also seriously injured," the ANC said. The ANC said it was the second time police had threatened Mr. Sisulu's safety on the road.

ANC Women's League suspends Mrs. Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The ANC Women's League Sunday suspended Winnie Mandela for a year, dealing another harsh blow to her attempted political comeback. Even before the

announcement, Sunday was expected to be a bitter day for Mrs. Mandela, estranged wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela. Mrs. Mandela, once called the "mother of the nation" by black activists, has been dogged by controversy and ANC leaders have now seen her as a liability and have distanced themselves from her. The Women's League said Mrs. Mandela and four other women suspended along with her had "put the ANC and the Women's League to disrepute" and damaged the organisation financially and politically.

FBI director told to resign

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Embattled FBI Director William Sessions has been told by Attorney General Janet Reno to resign or face the sack, a government source said. Mr. Sessions, whose replacement could be named Monday, was given this ultimatum Saturday during a meeting with Ms. Reno and other Justice Department officials, the source said. Doubts have risen over whether he would finish the second half of his 10-year term after the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility accused him in January of ethical lapses. Mr. Sessions and Ms. Reno declined to comment Saturday about their meetings. Asked on his way to the meeting what he thought the outcome would be, the FBI director said, "I think it's probably no secret."

India flood toll touches 415

NEW DELHI (AP) — Flooding spread from the north and submerged parts of central India as the death toll reached 415, news reports said. Rail links with the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were cut off, and landslides in mountainous areas paralysed rescue operations in several places, the reports said. At least 70 more people were reported killed Saturday, bringing to 415 number of people who have died in three weeks of flooding, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Water in the hour and seven people were killed Saturday when flood waters inundated the Narmada Valley in the central state of Madhya Pradesh. PTI and the United News of India said. In Punjab, the flooded northern state, the Sutlej River breached dikes and Rivers had submerged 2,500 villages in the state. More than 100,000 people are staying in about 100 relief camps established in schools, temples and tents on high ground.

Amman Little League to play in Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 14-member team (aged 11 and 12 years old) will represent Jordan at the International Little League Baseball European / Mediterranean play-offs in Germany, starting on July 23, the Amman Little League Association said Sunday.

The players, from Jordan, the United States and Lebanon, are playing in this year's spring baseball season in Amman and have received extra training during the last two months, the Association said in a press release.



The photograph shows the Jordanian team at their American Community School training field (Photo by Aynsley Floyd for the Jordan Times)

McColgan shock hits Britain's hopes

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Liz McColgan has been forced to pull out of next month's World Championships in Stuttgart.

The reigning 10,000 metres champion is suffering from a hamstring injury.

But veteran Steve Cram was thrown a lifeline by the British athletics selectors here Sunday. Cram and Olympic javelin bronze medalist Steve Backley were among around a dozen athletes who could still make the championship line-up, according to chief coach Frank Dick, if they can prove their form and fitness.

The selectors will meet again at the end of the month to review the situation.

McColgan has had a wretched season, failing in the London Marathon after starting as favourite and then withdrawing from the European Cup team with the same hamstring injury. She had admitted: "I'll be disappointed not to be able to defend my title, but I would not go

just to win a medal. I would only go if I felt I could win."

Cram, a disappointing fourth Saturday in the British trials, will have to hunt round European tracks to gain the mark if he is to earn a place, while trial winner Matthew Yates, the only 1,500m man named, will also have to quickly reach the qualifying standard of 3mins 36.50secs.

World 400m silver medalist Roger Black, suffering from a viral illness, has been named only in the relay and must prove his fitness, as must Backley, sidelined by shoulder trouble all year, and Olympic sprint hurdles finalist Hughie Tappe.

Curtis Robb, Britain's best young middle distance hope, has also been picked provisionally in the 800m, while trial absentee David Grindley, javelin thrower Mick Hill and 10,000m man Eamonn Martin, recovering from a foot injury, are all likely to join the team if they are fit.

"We will be taking no walking wounded to Stuttgart," insisted

Dick. "But we're having to deal with a whole new ball game because, for the first time, we're seeing the ravages of a post-Olympic year which has placed such severe demands on athletes."

Dick, worried that athletes are facing burn-out from their overcrowded schedule, wants the IAAF to review the major championships.

Olympic champions and team captains Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell do not seem to have such worries. Christie, despite his misjudgement in Saturday's 200m which saw him eliminated in the heats, will double up in the Stuttgart sprints as expected, while Gunnell will start hot favourite in the one-lap hurdles.

Dick believes the injuries mean Britain could have less than 20 finalists in Stuttgart but estimates a team which boasts six individual European champions could pick up a possible 10 medals, compared to the seven won in Tokyo.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. beats Honduras in gold cup

DALLAS (R) — Defender Alexi Lalas headed home Chris Henderson's corner kick in the 29th minute to lift the U.S. national soccer team to a 1-0 triumph over Honduras and the top spot in its group at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. The Americans (3-0) will remain in Dallas for its semifinal on July 21 in the regional championships and Honduras (1-2) was eliminated with the loss. Jamaica earned its spot in the July 22 semifinal at Mexico City with a 1-1 draw against Panama in Saturday's opener. The other semifinalists will be decided when Group B play concludes in Mexico City with the Mexico-Canada and Costa Rica-Martinique matches.

Morocco beats Senegal 3-1

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Megied Ferdou scored twice in 13 minutes in the second half Saturday, leading Morocco to a 3-1 victory over Senegal and giving it the group B lead in the second round of African qualifying for the 1994 World Cup. Rachid Daoudi gave Morocco the lead in the eighth minute before Ferdou added his pair in the 62nd and 75th minutes. Within seconds, Senegal's Souleymane Sane put Senegal on the board but it was unable to rally. The victory improved Morocco to 2-0-1 and four points, two better than Zambia, which has devastated by a plane crash three months ago. Morocco has one game remaining, Oct. 10 at home against Zambia. Zambia has three games remaining and Senegal two. Only the winners of the three, second-round African groups will qualify for the 24-nation field for the World Cup in the United States.

Lino wins tour de France stage

PERPIGNAN, France (AP) — Pascal Lino became the first French winner of this year's Tour de France Sunday by capturing the 14th stage with Miguel Indurain staying in the overall lead. Lino won in sprint over Italy's Giancarlo Perini. The pair broke away from Johan Bruyneel of Belgium and two Italians, Mario Chiesa and Gianni Faresin in the final kilometres of the Montpellier to Perpignan stage of 224 kilometres. The five pulled away from the pack early in the race. The main pack with all the favourites, including Indurain, finished more than 16 minutes behind with no change in the leader board. After two days in the mountains the leaders have taken it easy the last few days and left individual heroics to other riders who are no threats in the overall standings. The Tour heads into the Pyrenees Monday with a rest day on Tuesday before two more mountain stages. The Tour ends on July 25 in Paris completing a 3,720-kilometre (2,312-mile) loop around the country.

Chang wins French archery title

CANNES, France (AFP) — South Korea's Chang Yong-Ho won the men's title at the French Open archery tournament here on Saturday. Chang beat Andreas Lippold of Germany in the final 112-108. But the Germans got revenge in the men's team event, beating the South Koreans 238-236. But South Korea's women beat the Germans 235-230 in their final. Christel Versteegen of Holland won the women's event, beating Heike Eicheing of Germany 105-102. The Dutch men's team took a world record 254 points out of 270 as they took third place by beating Norway.

Huber wins Austrian Open

KITZBUHEL, Austria (AP) — Top-seeded Anke Huber of Germany spoiled local favourite Judith Wiesner's bid for a upset Saturday, sailing to a 6-4, 6-1 win in the final of the Austrian Open Women's Tennis Tournament. Huber, 10th in the women's ATP world rankings, played solidly throughout the \$150,000 clay-court tournament, never losing a set. She needed only 1 hour, 7 minutes, to dispatch the fifth-seeded Wiesner before a partisan Austrian crowd in Kitzbuehel's Casino Stadium.

Carbajal retains WBC, IBF titles; Pendleton wins

LAS VEGAS (R) — Undeclared Michael Carbajal of the United States retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) light flyweight titles by stopping Kwang-Sun Kim of South Korea at two minutes, 23 seconds of the seventh round.

On the undercard, Freddie Pendleton of the United States was too quick for former champion Jorge Paez of Mexico and retained his IBF lightweight championship with a 12-round unanimous decision, despite fracturing his right hand in the sixth round.

Carbajal, in the second defence of the WBC title and eighth defence of his IBF crown, stopped Kim with a short left hook to the head. Kim crumpled to the canvas, got up and reeled around the ring, his head bobbing backward, until referee Richard Steele grabbed him to keep him from collapsing again.

Carbajal, 25, now 29-0 was leading on all three judges' scorecards.

Kim, 29, a gold medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, was in only his eighth professional fight. Kim now has a record of 6-2.

The taller Carbajal, a 7-1 favourite, controlled the first three rounds by methodically landing left jabs and combinations to Kim's head. By the end of the second round Kim's right eye was swollen shut.

Beginning in the fourth round, Kim was not throwing his left jab at all and began rushing in with both hands flailing. The awkward style blunted Carbajal's attack and he turned tentative, throwing far fewer punches, especially his right hand, which he threw only six times in the sixth round.

Early in the seventh round, the frenetic Kim jarred Carbajal with a left and two rights to the head. But suddenly shot the left hook to the head.

"He dropped his right hand when he loaded up," said Carbajal, "so when I saw him do it then, I let go with my left and bang."

Kim said: "I saw it coming, but it came so quick."

Kim had been thought to have a suspect chin. This is the seventh time he has been knocked down in eight bouts.

Carbajal received \$250,000 and Kim got \$15,000. Both fighters

weighed 108 pounds (49 kg). Pendleton's next defence will be against number-one challenger Rafael Ruelas of the United States. The date will be set after Pendleton's hand heals.

Pendleton in the first defence of the title he won in January, used left jabs and combination rights to pepper the face of Paez, keeping the slower, shorter challenger from getting inside or landing more than one effective punch at a time.

Pendleton knocked down Paez twice — once in the first with a right to the head and in the fourth round with a right-left to the chin. Paez also was cut in the corner of his left eye in the second round. Pendleton, cut over the right eye in the 11th round, is now 35-17-4. But in the last six years, his record is 18-2-1.

Paez, the IBF featherweight champion from 1988-1990 and ranked sixth among lightweights entering this bout, is now 46-6-4. This was his third unsuccessful attempt at winning a world lightweight title.

Pendleton, a 4-1/2-1 favourite, received \$150,000 and Paez, aged 27, got \$70,000.

Kankkunen wins Argentine Rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Juha Kankkunen of Finland swept the Argentine Rally for Toyota but could not prevent Ford's Miki Biasion of Italy taking the lead in this season's World Championship.

Kankkunen, a triple world champion who had never won here, took the lead in the first superstage raced Wednesday night at a horsetrack in northwestern San Miguel de Tucuman and kept it until the rally ended in the central city of Cordoba.

With Biasion always 'breathing down his neck,' the Finn clocked a total time of five hours, 32 minutes and 31 seconds on the 525 kilometres of special stages in the 1,836-kilometre rally winning the three legs of the competition.

The Italian struggled to shorten Kankkunen's lead but was literally left behind in the dust as the wind was too weak to blow away the cloud of dirt kicked up by the Finn's Toyota.

Biasion, known here as "the flying Italian" for having won three Argentine rallies, finished one minute and 54 seconds behind the winner.

His second-place finish made

him the frontrunner in this season's Drivers' Championship with 66 points, three ahead of Kankkunen and 11 above his French teammate Francois Delecour, who did not race here.

This rally also broke the tie at the top of the Teams' Championship, where Toyota and Ford had been level at 77 points. But the Japanese builders, now with 97 points, lead by only three points.

Toyota's standing was boosted by the third place clinched by Didier Auriol of France, who had won here last season on a Lancia. He is now fourth in the season's

Drivers' Championship with 47 points.

Auriol moved up after Uruguayan Gustavo Trelles blew his Lancia's front right tyre in one of the final stages. The South American, who finished virtually on three wheels, still managed to come in fourth.

The top-placed local racer was Carlos Menem Jr., the son of Argentina's president, who drove a Ford Escort to fifth place. Muhammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates, also on a Ford, finished sixth and was the top-placed Group N racer.

Doohan claims first win of the season

MUGELLO, Italy (R) — Australian Michael Doohan put his injury nightmares behind him to claim his first win of the season in the San Marino 500cc Motorcycle Grand Prix Sunday.

Doohan won easily after World Championship leader Kevin Schwantz, in front with just over a lap to go, suffered mechanical problems with his Suzuki.

Schwantz held on for second place, ahead of fellow-American Wayne Rainey, his only real challenger for the world title.

Schwantz now has 192 points, 23 ahead of Rainey with five races to go.

"I can tell you this is a good feeling," said Honda rider Doohan, who had not won since breaking his leg in a bad crash at the Dutch Grand Prix last year. "I hope to get a few more wins

under my belt before the season is out," added Doohan, whose injury last season robbed him of the world title.

He almost came off on the seventh lap at this Tuscan circuit, doing superbly to hang on to his bike after taking a corner in the wrong gear.

"I got into a bad slide and thought I was about to crash out," he admitted. Japanese Yamaha rider Tsutomu Udagawa, in his first season in the class, was not so lucky.

He was taken away in an ambulance after crashing on the 23rd and final lap. There was no immediate word on his condition.

The race had been a straight fight between Doohan and Schwantz with the American looking set to come out on top until his bike let him down.

"The bike started to vibrate very badly on the final lap. I just eased back because I didn't want anything silly to happen."

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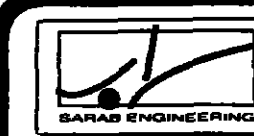
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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SHED SOME LIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J
♥ 6 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K J 10 9 8

WEST EAST
♠ 10 9 8 5 2 ♠ 7 8 4 3
♥ 9 7 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 8
♦ K 5 ♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 6 4 ♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A 8 2
♣ Q 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 7 NT Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bill Root's *The Play of the Hand* was voted the Best Bridge Book of 1990, and justifiably so. At present he is working on a book on defense, due to appear next year, and it rates to be another award winner. Here's a preview from the chapter on discarding.

North's jump to four clubs was Gerber, asking for aces. When South showed three, North elected

to go directly to seven on trump on the strength of his excellent trick-producing club suit.

"Sometimes you must discard to help your partner, instead of trying to save a trick yourself. Partner leads the ten of spades and declarer wins the first trick in hand with the ace. He then starts running the club suit and you (as East) have no discarding problems, but your partner may have. Your first discard (on the third club lead) should be the queen of diamonds, to tell partner that you have control of that suit. Look at the four hands so you can see how that helps partner.

"Before leading a red suit, declarer should cash six clubs and two spades, hoping that someone will carefully discard a heart and allow him to win four heart tricks and make his bid. Suppose you were West and had to come down to five cards which five cards would you save? Without the signal it is tempting to throw a heart and save K & 6 of diamonds, (but that would be fatal). Knowing that partner still has J 10 x of diamonds, it is easy to blank the king of diamonds and hold onto four hearts" (and declarer must go down).

CONCORD

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA

STALLONE — IN DOLBY STEREO

CLIFFHANGER

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Al Pacino — in

SCENT OF A WOMAN

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled:

The Assassination of Hantshaleh

by artist Saeed Bitar

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AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE

The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

2 killed, 7 wounded in Cairo attack on general

Combined agency despatches

CAIRO — Two people were killed and seven wounded Sunday when suspected Muslim extremists opened fire on an army general in apparent revenge for the hanging of five radicals a day earlier.

One of the gunmen and a passerby were killed; the wounded were four civilians, two police and an army officer. Police and soldiers exchanged fire with the gunmen at two spots several blocks apart along a major highway.

Security officials at the scene said Major General Osman Shaheen, commander of Cairo's central military area, was not wounded in the attack.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the attack on Gen. Shaheen was believed to be in revenge for the execution Saturday of five members of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, the group linked to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.

Hours after the latest hangings, police experts defused two bombs late Saturday in the working-class district of Matariya, northern Cairo. The aborted attacks were also blamed on Islamic militants.

Gen. Shaheen escaped injury in the attack, which took place in the southern Cairo district of Old Egypt at the entrance to a highway leading to the suburb of Heliopolis and the airport.

Police said one of the assailants was killed along with a passer-by, while two policemen were wounded.

Four bystanders and an army lieutenant were also wounded, according to the Interior Ministry, while witnesses said several cars were caught in the cross-fire.

Security forces captured two of

the gunmen, who had hidden in a cemetery to attack the general — military commander of the central region — said a military commander for the Cairo region.

But an unknown number of assailants were still on the run, the Interior Ministry said in a statement, without referring to the attempted assassination of the general.

An official source said they apparently mistook Gen. Shaheen for another general, Ahmad Abdullah, the chairman of military courts which have passed 13 death sentences against Islamic militants.

The five of the militants executed Saturday were found guilty of an aborted assassination bid against Information Minister Sawat Al Sharif and bombings at tourist sites.

Witnesses said Gen. Shaheen's driver just swerved out of the way in time to avoid the gunfire, but the assailants also fired on 20 patrol cars in the area, wounding two policemen.

One of the attackers hurled two grenades at a local sports centre and fired indiscriminately to cover his escape, they said. But he was gunned down by military police.

The Interior Ministry named the two captured gunmen as Ragad Abdul Wakil Chehata, 31, and Mahmoud Salah Fahmi, 21.

Both came from southern Egypt, a stronghold of the underground Al Gamaa at the centre of a wave of violence to wreck the economy and topple the secular government, the ministry said.

The police and the Interior Ministry's intelligence service have taken almost all responsibility for fighting the militants, who have targeted police, Christians and tourists in a campaign to

overthrow the government.

But the regular armed forces have become involved in the last six months because scores of militant cases have been referred to military courts.

The courts have sentenced 21 men to death and all 14 in police custody have been hanged, the largest number of executions for political crimes in Egypt this century.

Information Minister Sawat Sherif denied that an army general had been the target of Sunday's shooting.

Cairo newspapers Sunday reported the arrest in New York of another follower of Sheikh Abdul Rahman but only one mentioned that he had been charged with plotting to kill President Mubarak.

During Mr. Mubarak's 12 years in power, the press in Egypt has been increasingly free to publish opinions but journalists say it still receives guidance from the Information Ministry on the handling of sensitive news.

The two biggest state-owned newspapers, Al Ahram and Al Akhbar, and the largest opposition daily, Al Wafd, all failed to report the fact that Abdo Mohammad Haggag, 34, had been charged with plotting a suicide mission to murder Mr. Mubarak during a visit to New York.

Al Ahram said Mr. Haggag was accused of planning to kill "Arab personalities," Al Akhbar said "an Arab leader," and Al Wafd "an Arab president." Only the state-owned Al Gomhuria mentioned that the target was Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak's spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Moneim, said he had no comment on the alleged plot.



IRAQI ANNIVERSARY: Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein (right) greets Revolutionary Council Vice-Chairman Izat Ibrahim Saturday on the 25th anniversary of the rise to power of the Baath Party (AFP photo)

Egypt rights group condemns hangings

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group condemned the government Sunday for hanging 14 Muslim militants, saying their deaths would inflame violence.

"Capital punishment will not solve the problem. Instead, it will increase violence," Bahaddin Hassan, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR), told Reuters.

The hangings of militants might inflame and strengthen the motivation of these groups to carry out more attacks to avenge their comrades who were hanged," he said after addressing a news conference on the EOHR's annual report.

Militant courts have sentenced 21 militants to death in the last six months, all 14 of those in police custody have been hanged, five of them on Saturday, in the largest number of executions for political crimes in Egypt this century.

Mr. Hassan said Egypt's human rights record in 1992 was the worst in years and that 83 militants and police or troops were killed in confrontations.

The government is battling a wave of militant attacks that have devastated Egypt's tourist trade and caused losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Hassan said capital punishment could be a temporary deterrent to some followers but would

not stop the militant groups from working to achieve their aims in overthrowing the Egyptian government.

"The cycle of violence will not stop this way. The Islamic groups are not a mafia. They are organised groups based on religious values and foundations."

The rights group said Muslim fundamentalists were also to blame for deterioration of human rights by trying to impose their beliefs by force through attacking secular intellectuals, Christians and foreign tourists.

Mr. Hassan said military courts set up by President Hosni Mubarak under an anti-terrorism law to battle a rising wave of fundamentalist violence denied militants the right to appeal.

"We reject the trial of civilians in military courts. This is a clear violation of all human rights in international conventions because it deprived people from being tried by their natural judges," he said.

He accused the government of making draconian changes in the laws to permit its tough crackdown on the militants.

"In 1992 there was an unprecedented campaign to issue legislation and laws violating human rights procedures and several other laws under the pretext of combating terrorism," he said.

Yemeni foreign minister visits S. Arabia

JEDDAH (Agencies) —

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Bassandawa, the highest ranking Yemeni official to visit Saudi Arabia since the Gulf war, arrived Sunday in this Red Sea port, Saudi officials said.

Mr. Bassandawa is carrying a personal message to King Fahd from the Yemeni president, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, on "ways to advance negotiations on the border dispute between the two countries, and to improve bilateral relations," an Yemeni diplomat in Riyadh told AFP.

It is Mr. Bassandawa's first visit to the kingdom since he was appointed foreign minister in May, following legislative elections on April 27.

The message is a reply to one sent by the king to Mr. Saleh in May, according to the Yemeni diplomat. That message, conveyed by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khawateer, also concerned the frontier dispute.

The dispute centres on the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir, currently controlled by Riyadh under the terms of the 1934 Taif accord. Sanaa claims the accord expired in September last year and refuses to renew it.

Experts from the two countries have met four times in the past year to try to resolve the matter, but have made no progress.

Saudi-Yemeni relations took a tumble after the 1991 Gulf war, when Yemen supported Iraq, and Sanaa has recently been trying to repair the damage caused by its Gulf war stance, exhorting richer Arab states to invest.

Last Thursday, President Saleh urged the Gulf monarchies, notably Kuwait, which was enraged by Yemen's support for Iraq, to "open a new page in their relations with Yemen."

Saudi Arabia cut off financial aid to Yemen and expelled nearly one million Yemeni workers in retaliation for the country's support for Iraq.

Yemen has been seeking to improve relations with its Gulf neighbours since the multi-party elections in April 27.

The new government in which Mr. Bassandawa serves has made it a priority to restore relations with the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which also includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Bassandawa earlier visited Bahrain, and Omani Foreign Affairs Minister Yusef Ben Alawi has visited Sanaa. Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Al Thani, concluded a two-day visit to Yemen Saturday.

The two countries stressed in a joint statement the importance of mending inter-Arab rifts.

W. Sahara talks fail to resume

LAYYOUN. Western Sahara (AFP) — Talks on the future of disputed Western Sahara failed to resume Sunday amid reports of a complete breakdown between delegates from the separatist Polisario Front and Moroccan representatives.

Meanwhile tensions rose between Polisario Front leaders in Algiers and Moroccan authorities in Rabat over hotly denied allegations of repression of Western Sahara tribesmen by Moroccan troops.

Reports circulating here said the Polisario delegation had rejected the authority of Morocco's representatives at the talks on setting criteria for identifying voters in a referendum on self-determination in the disputed former Spanish territory.

Polisario delegates had described the Moroccan delegation, comprising nine heads of Sahrawi tribes loyal to Morocco, as lacking "all representativity," an unofficial source said.

The separatists pledged they would only resume with a "political and governmental delegation" from Morocco, a source added.

Officially, U.N.-brokered talks, which got under way in this main Western Sahara town Saturday, would not confirm the reported breakdown.

But U.N. sources said the orga-

nisation's Sahara envoy Sahabzada Yaqub Khan tried early Sunday to persuade the two sides to resume their discussions.

In Algiers, meanwhile, the Polisario Front hit out at Moroccan authorities for what it described as the arrests of "a large number of Sahrawis" in recent days.

Those arrested on unspecified dates included Sidati Selami Labib, a blind journalist who worked for Layyoun radio under the Spanish colonists and the first years of Moroccan occupation, the front said.

The front condemned what it called "this campaign of blind repression and this intolerable behaviour of the Moroccan occupying forces," adding that it sought to draw public attention to the "worsening" of the situation in Western Sahara.

In Rabat, Moroccan authorities strenuously denied the charges, an official source telling AFP they were "completely false and verging on the ridiculous," and that Mr. Sidati was currently on holiday with his family.

The impasse in Layyoun contrasted with reports Saturday that the meeting was progressing well.

Bachir Sayed, the head of the Polisario delegation and the front's deputy leader, earlier told journalists that the talks were

"taking place in good conditions."

The U.N., which is brokering the discussions at its mission headquarters, is seeking to organise the referendum in the disputed territory before the end of the year.

A message to the two delegations from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali earlier urged them to "redouble efforts to resolve the Western Sahara problem."

The Polisario Front has sent 11 delegates to the talks, while the Moroccan delegation consists of nine members of the 85-strong "Sahrawi Consultative Council" — a body consisting of Saharan tribal elders loyal to Morocco, set up by King Hassan in 1985.

The meeting is the first to be held between the two sides since they began fighting over Western Sahara in 1975.

The referendum on self-determination in the territory was postponed from January 1992, with Polisario and Morocco at loggerheads as to who should take part.

Polisario had based its list of voters on a 1974 census carried out by Spanish colonists before they left, but Morocco wanted to add thousands of Sahrawis living outside the territory.

Aideed urges followers to rise up against 'colonialism'

MOGADISHU (AP) — Fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed urged his followers Sunday to rise up against the multinational force in retaliation for U.S.-led bombings of his strongholds.

"We cannot accept foreign domination. I am asking the Somali people to wake up and defend our independence," General Aideed said in a statement read by aides to a rally of his Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction.

Gen. Aideed has been in hiding — probably in southern Mogadishu — since mid-June when U.N. special envoy Jonathan Howe ordered his arrest. That order came after a June 5 ambush by Aideed followers killed 24 Pakistani peacekeeping troops.

As the demonstrators listened to Gen. Aideed's statement, U.S. helicopters were seen above a neighbourhood about three kilometres away. The aircraft was supporting U.N. forces carrying out weapon searches.

The troops were going house-to-house in the Medina suburb near the U.N. headquarters compound, which has been the target of several mortar and gun attacks.

Much of Gen. Aideed's message was repetitive sloganeering against the United Nations and the approximately 4,000 U.S. troops who are in the peacekeeping force. Gen. Aideed charges the United States with indiscriminately using gunships in densely populated areas of the south section of the city he controls.

"They call us warlords. We are the peace lords," said Gen. Aideed, whose fighters are blamed for attacks that have left 35 peacekeepers dead since June 5.

Gen. Aideed said the United Nations was trying to impose a system of control over Somalia without consulting him and other faction leaders who he claimed represented the majority of the country's 6.5 million people.

"They are talking with weak people who have no support," he

said. "They want to return us to colonialism."

Colourful paintings were on display at the rally, showing blazing buildings under attack by U.S. gunships and warplanes. The paintings were headlined "Aid from America" and cartoon-type balloons from the pilots' mouths contained the message: "We have come to help you."

In the last bombardment, on July 12, a command centre that was allegedly used by Aideed fighters was hit by missiles and heavy-calibre cannon, killing 57 people, according to the International Red Cross.

U.N. officials said only 13 Somalis were killed. Four foreign journalists were murdered by enraged mobs after the raid.

The incident highlighted opposition among European nations, notably Italy and Germany, to hardline military tactics by the United Nations in Somalia and touched off intense diplomatic efforts to avert a major split in the peacekeeping alliance.

Majali briefs American student delegation

(Continued from page 1)

said.

He said the U.S. administration had a key role in pushing the peace process ahead at the bilateral level. Industrialised nations such as Japan and countries of the European Community can also play an important role in the multilateral talks, he said.

Dr. Majali also briefed the delegation on the outcome of the Gulf crisis and the suffering of Jordan as a result of the embargo imposed on Iraq since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the interception of Jordan-bound vessels in the Red Sea.

The Gulf crisis, he said, also caused a decline in the export of Jordanian commodities to its main markets in the Arab Gulf states and Iraq.

He emphasised that democracy is not alien to Jordan "since we are democratic in our old tribal norms and traditions and because our religion urges us to follow Shura (consultative) in ruling."

He added that this does not contradict the modern meaning of democracy because the aim is that people participate in deciding their destiny and future.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari.

Earlier, the delegation, arranged by the National Council on Arab-American relations, was received by the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to the United States was part of the Kingdom's efforts to bolster relations between

American and Jordanian people, Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi told the group.

Mr. Lawzi said that the Middle East needed a durable and just peace so that security and stability can be restored to the region.

Mr. Lawzi stressed the need for Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in the 1967 war.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat briefed the group on the democratic process in Jordan.

Dr. Arabiyat stressed the need for the world community to end the state of injustice and oppression. He also called for efforts to be made to end the atrocities against the Bosnian "sole and people of Iraq, Somalia and Palestine."

Winnie Mandela shuns Nelson's 75th birthday party

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Hundreds of South African businessmen paid \$155 a head to attend ANC President Nelson Mandela's lavish 75th birthday party Saturday evening, but a table laid for his estranged wife and daughters remained empty.

African National Congress (ANC) officials said about 650 of the 720 guests paid to attend the fund-raising dinner on the eve of Mandela's birthday Sunday. Twelve-seater tables were booked by all the country's major corporations, including banks, mining houses and television networks. Foreign ambassadors and former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, whose government hosted the ANC through almost 30 years of exile, also attended the dinner.

But a table set for Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie, and his daughters Zindzi and Zenani remained empty. Winnie Mandela addressed a convention of black social workers at another Johannesburg hotel and declined to comment to reporters on the lavish party thrown for her husband.

South African newspapers reported earlier in the week that Winnie Mandela had a row with the ANC over the use of Mr. Mandela's birthday to raise funds for the organisation's election campaign. South African performers including P.J. Power, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, started the evening, which featured traditional African ngqungu beer and a metre-wide birthday cake.

Winnie Mandela, who has two children with her husband, said she was not invited to the party.

Robert Kennedy's son to wed staffer

BOSTON (R) — Congressmen Joseph Kennedy, the eldest son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, will marry Beth Kelly, a longtime member of his Washington staff, his office announced Saturday.

The marriage is the second for the 40-year-old Kennedy, who has two twin 12-year-old sons from a first marriage. It will be the first for Kelly, 36. The wedding date will be set later this year.

'Fergie' gets injunction to stop cook spilling beans

LONDON (R) — The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Prince Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, was granted an injunction Saturday to prevent her former cook telling all about life in her household. The high court order prevents Simone Bessant from publishing her memoirs which she allegedly sold to a Sunday newspaper for £10,000 (\$15,000). The Daily Mail newspaper said "Fergie" — Sarah Ferguson before her marriage — engaged libel law firm Peter Carter-Ruck and partners to block stories about the first months of her marriage. Ms. Bessant was warned that she would be in contempt of court if any information covered by the injunction is published. She worked for the royal couple for two years when their marriage was breaking up. The Duke and Duchess of York separated in March 1992 after six years of marriage. They have two young daughters, Princess Beatrice and Eugenie, aged five and three.

Pope: Celibacy not essential to priests but rule will stay

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Saturday said celibacy is not essential to the priesthood, but made clear that the Vatican would continue to demand that priests be celibate. The statement, made to a weekly audience of tourists and pilgrims, gave no indication of a softening of one of the central and most controversial tenets of the Roman Catholic priesthood. Instead, the Pope appeared to be acknowledging two arguments by opponents of the marriage ban: That Rome accepts that the Eastern Rite churches, which require the ordination of married men, and that in its early centuries, the Christian Church allowed married priests. As if answering the critics, the Pope in clear terms gave the church's reason for this seeming inconsistency. Celibacy "doesn't belong to the essence of priesthood," he said. But, he added that the church has come to conclude that being single is more suited to carrying out a priest's duties, and he made clear the Vatican is content with the ban on marriage. "Jesus didn't make a law, but proposed an ideal of celibacy for the priesthood that he was establishing," the Pope said. "This ideal is affirmed even more in the church."

Police dismiss

SAO PAULO (R) — Police dismissed a man from a job at the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo after he was found to be a spy for the Brazilian military.

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Inkatha supports pullout from talks

UEUNDI, South Africa (AFP) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's threat to start break-away constitutional talks gathered momentum Sunday when he received the overwhelming backing of his main constituency, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

A resolution passed by delegates to the IFP's national conference at this KwaZulu tribal homeland capital mandated IFP negotiators to withdraw from South Africa's democracy talks and "consider very seriously" the feasibility of an alternative negotiating forum.

It also instructed the negotiators not to reenter talks until they had received assurances that the IFP would have an effective veto over all decisions — a privilege none of the 26 parties to the talks currently enjoys.

Inkatha delegates walked out of the democracy talks, being held at the World Trade Centre in Johannesburg, on July 2, when negotiators named April 27 as the date for South Africa's first all-race elections.

Despite the fact that the IFP and its five federalist allies rejected the date, saying they first wanted assurances that federalism will be entrenched in a future constitution, the motion was carried under the "sufficient consensus" rule.

Sunday's resolution stems from the fact that the IFP believes the South African government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) are determining the pace and character of elections and have a de facto veto.

In a separate resolution, delegates said they could not endorse the April 27 election date until they knew what the final constitution will be.

The resolution echoes a statement to the conference Friday by Mr. Buthelezi, who wants federalism entrenched in a new constitution before an election date is set.

Warning of a possible civil war, Mr. Buthelezi threatened to set up a rival forum with his federalist allies if he did not get his way.

Another resolution reflecting the bitter rivalry that exists between the IFP and the ANC, which almost daily erupts into bloodshed, is one demanding that the government "clearly declare its position" on the continued deployment of the ANC's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), before negotiators return to the talks.

Claiming that MK cadres are assassinating IFP leaders, the resolution claims that MK's continued recruitment and training of cadres was impacting negatively on the negotiations process.

Government negotiators held urgent talks with Inkatha on Saturday but failed to defuse the crisis. Further talks are due on Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police disperse striking civil servants

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police used water cannon and truncheons to break up a protest by 2,000 striking civil servants outside Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office during a cabinet meeting Sunday, police said. Mounted police and border guards charged and arrested 10 demonstrators who blocked the road in the unauthorised protest. Union leaders, who have brought tens of thousands of civil servants out on strike demanding a 35 per cent pay rise over three years, hit out at the police for using force against the demonstration.

Three tourists reported stabbed in Paphos

NICOSIA (AP) — An Israeli couple and a British teenager were stabbed early Sunday in the western resort town of Paphos in what police say were bungled burglaries. The names of the victims were not immediately released, but police said none was seriously injured. According to police sources, an unidentified man first entered a bedroom in the Amathus Hotel at about 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday) where the Israeli couple was staying. A short while later, they said, he was reported to have snuck into a room in the nearby Anabelle Hotel, a 15-year-old girl was hurt there, they said. The man escaped and police have launched a search, they said.

Sudan accuses rebels of breaking truce

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese troops killed 120 rebels in clashes after the guerrillas broke a ceasefire, a regional commander was reported saying Sunday. It was the most serious of several violations of the truce, which was organised in March as the government and rebels of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army began peace talks. Major General Mohammad Abdul Rahim Saeed, quoted in the Al Watani newspaper, said his soldiers killed 120 rebels who tried to ambush a column moving from Equatoria state to Bahr Al Ghazal state. He did not say exactly when or where the fighting took place. Many weapons were seized, he added. Talks held in the Nigerian capital Abuja ended last month with no breakthrough in finding a solution to the 10-year-old conflict in southern Sudan.

Tunisia, Libya clamp down on border trade

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia and Libya are clamping down on illicit trade across their land border, stepping up customs checks to enforce a new trade convention, travellers said Sunday. The move, welcomed by Tunisian trade unions, affected restricted goods that Libyan and Tunis